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BRAVE HEART

Ilhan Omar's
improbable
journey from
refugee camp
to Minnesota
Legislature



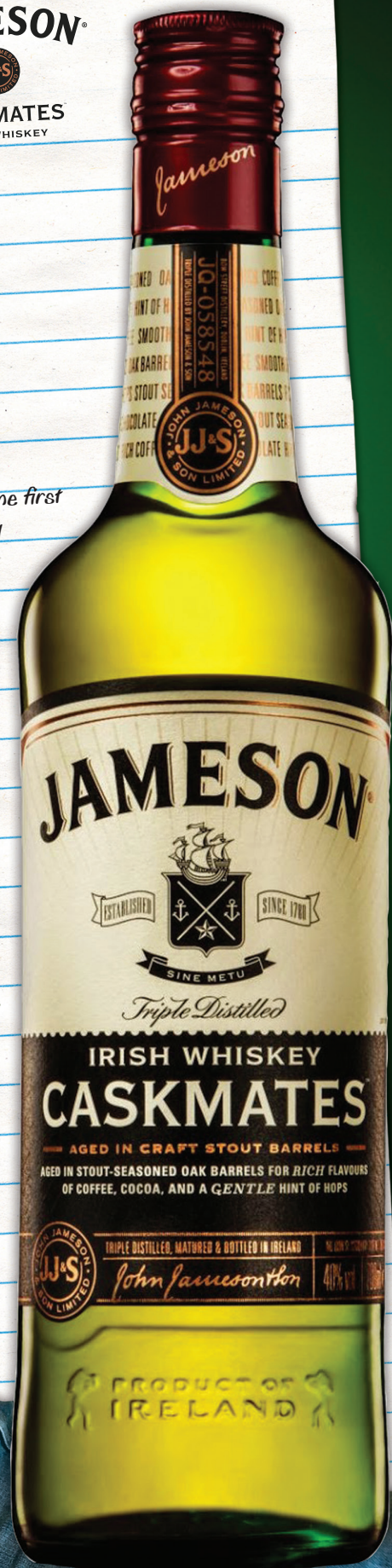
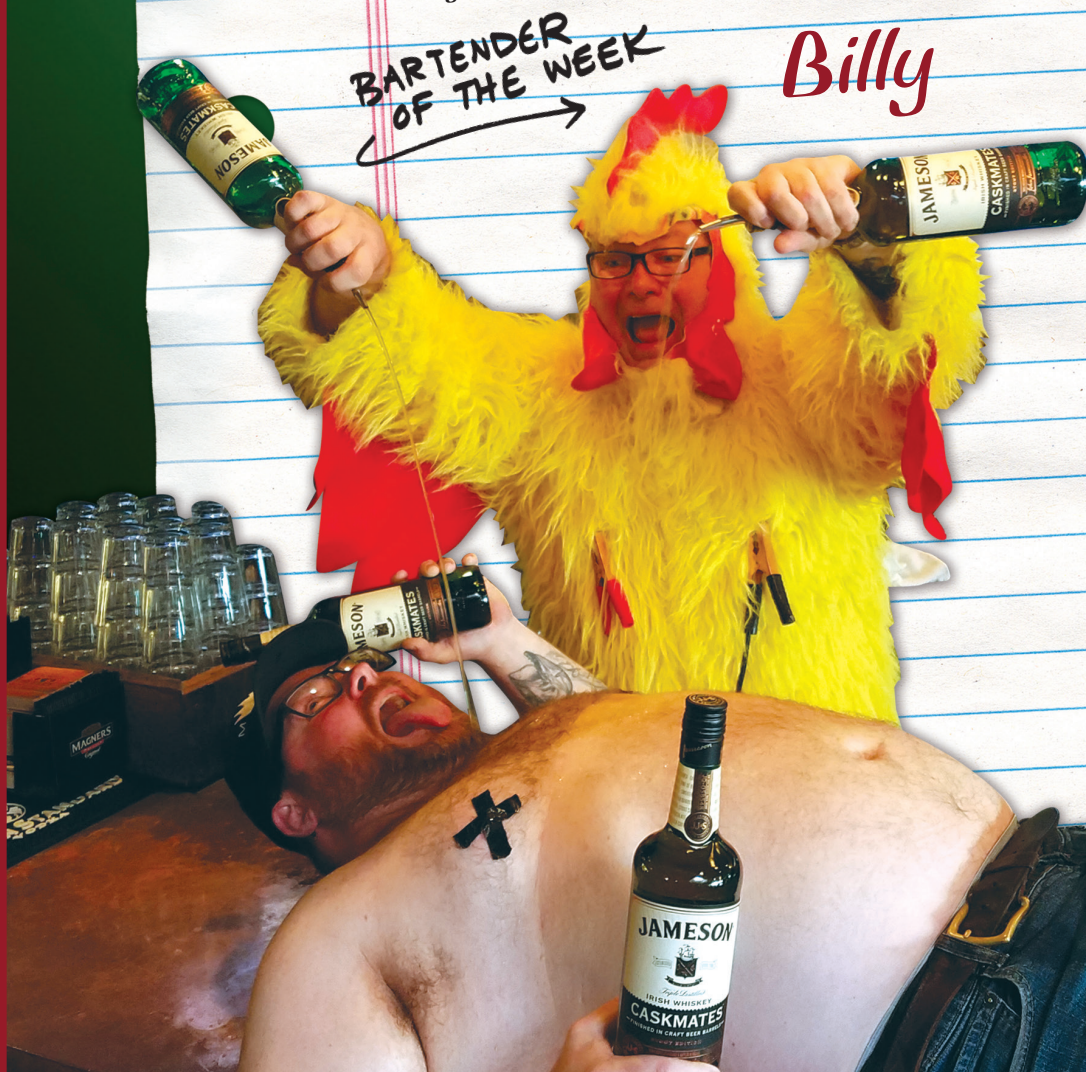
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\$34 million

Amount spent on Minnesota
congressional races so far.
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40

Faculty members laid off by
the University of Minnesota-Duluth due
to declining enrollment and state aid.

23,400

Attendance for the U.S.-Switzerland
game at U.S. Bank Stadium,
the largest crowd to ever watch
a women's soccer game in Minnesota.

90

Percentage of American Indians
who say they're not offended by
the Washington Redskins' name,
according to a Washington Post poll.

**"Blaming the officiating is a loser mentality.
One made shot doesn't win or lose a series."**

Reader Mark H. Anderson responds to "Here's
the terrible blown call that might've cost the
Minnesota Lynx the NBA championship."

MISERY'S BFF

NEXT YEAR, people with health insurance
through MNsure will face 50 percent price
hikes. But one man's agony is another's joy.
Count House Speaker Kurt Daudt among
the giddy.

He's gleefully labeling it "a crisis Demo-
crats created." Never mind that Minnesota
Republicans rejected plans to repair MNsure
in January. And never mind that U.S. House
Republicans voted 60 times to repeal Obam-
care while never offering an alternative.

MNsure can't be fixed with one party refus-
ing to play. Daudt says he's "open to any
and all ideas." But other than saying "no," he
doesn't seem to have any of his own.

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

Why visiting the abandoned
ANOKA STATE HOSPITAL,
Minnesota's most haunted spot,
is a bad idea

Kitchen grifter **NICHOLAS
STEFFEN** accused of stealing from
some of the Twin Cities'
best restaurants

3 Minneapolis bars make
Food & Wine's **'BEST COCKTAIL
BARS IN THE U.S.'** list

'Don't shoot me, sir,' black suspect
says to **ST. PAUL COP**, who doesn't
shoot him [VIDEO]

First Avenue, developers pitch plan
to cure Minneapolis' glaring lack of
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MATH VS. HISTORY

Are 10 stories too many for the North Loop?

The North Loop is at a crossroads. Back when it was called the Warehouse District, people didn't give much thought to real estate in the northwest neighborhood, which once served as the city's shipping hub.

Then developers started building pricey apartments. The influx of residents fueled a newfound interest in what else was being built.

Case in point: United Properties' proposed 10-story, 159-foot mixed-use building on the 700 block of Washington Avenue North. In place of what now is an unsightly slab for parking, the Pohlad-owned company wants to erect a brick structure featuring office space, apartments, and a parking garage.

All the other historic buildings in the area range between four and six stories, and North Loop resident D.J. Heinle concedes United's would stand out. However, Heinle, an architect by day who has served on the North Loop Neighborhood Association's

Planning and Zoning Committee for 11 years, doesn't see this as a problem.

"The building's architectural detailing, as it's been proposed from an aesthetics standpoint, is well done," he says. "It's brick like the others nearby. It fits in well. I think what some people aren't excited about is its height, having ten stories when other buildings are closer to six. I think there's a fear that as the North Loop enters into new phase in its development history it will be the beginning of a tunnel effect with larger buildings along Washington Avenue."

That's precisely the issue for many of the North Loop's 5,000 or so residents. So much so there's a movement afoot to get the developer to clip the height by two stories.

"Everybody wants to see development of the parking lot," says Francesco Parisi of Neighbors for North Loop Livability. "The main concern of the neighborhood is the height. The historic preservation guidelines require new buildings to be compatible in



JEFF WHEELER / STAR TRIBUNE

height and scale with historic buildings. This one would not."

The group believes United's development flies in the face of the parameters that aim to preserve the area's unique architectural vibe.

"Right now, what they're proposing is almost 50 percent higher than what's already there," Parisi says.

United presented its proposal to the city last month. In opposition, North Loop Livability launched an online petition. As of Sunday, it's garnered exactly 500 signatures.

"All we are asking is for them to respect

the historic fabric of the neighborhood," says Parisi.

Heinle gets that, but he also sees United's project as a sign of the times. Soaring land values mandate larger buildings to make the math work. When the association's planning committee convenes on November 23, Heinle expects the differing visions for the North Loop — with the United development as the microcosm — to be front and center.

"I anticipate the meeting to be the most contentious we've had since I've been on the committee," Heinle says. —CORY ZUROWSKI



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Divorce Announcements

Falling out of love in Minnesota

Wedding season's over, and all your friends are now happily hitched and enjoying the warmth of wedded bliss. Didn't make the list this year? Don't be jealous. City Pages offers this helpful corrective in the form of recent news from the legal filings dissolving local marriages.

Kelly Ann Pritchett, Robert Wade

Kelly Ann Pritchett, 30, fell out of love with Robert Wade when she realized that what she'd once valued as Wade's beautifully understated view of the world was actually just broad stupidity. Through six years of marriage, Wade, a 32-year-old bank manager, did not read a single book, and, indeed, showed little recognition that books even existed. When it was announced that Harriet Tubman would be placed on the 20 dollar bill, Wade asked Pritchett, a librarian, if it was because she had been "such a good train conductor." As they began to divide up shared property in their divorce proceedings, Wade requested that he receive sole custody of "their" collection of hockey bobblehead dolls. He was informed that the items had already been boxed up and mailed to the address of his new condo.

Rachel O'Connor, Joshua Andersen

The once-stable union of these college sweethearts crumbled slowly, over time, stemming from a differing taste in television and films. Specifically, Andersen noticed that O'Connor disproportionately picked out storylines that featured lesbianism or female bisexuality as a central theme or subplot. These entertainment selections were made often, though not exclusively, when the couple was joined by Sara Erick-

son, O'Connor's attractive college roommate. On the most recent occasion, in early October, O'Connor followed a screening of the Natalie Portman film *Black Swan* by playing the Demi Lovato song "Cool for the Summer." Andersen, thinking he'd finally figured out what was going on, rushed to refill his female companions' wine glasses, and deliberately undid the bottom two buttons of his flannel shirt to reveal an oblong slice of pale, fuzzy belly. The resulting eye roll from his wife was so severe she almost pulled a muscle.

Sam Gross, Megan Reynolds

Oregon native Megan Reynolds, 26, proved incurably awful at pronouncing names of cities, counties, lakes, and rivers throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin, despite having lived in the Upper Midwest for seven years. This ineptitude ate at her husband, Sam Gross, 31, who previously rented an apartment on Wabasha Street in St. Paul and has relatives living in Wayzata and Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. "If I have to tell her one more time that Ely is EE-lee, and not named for the guy who invented the cotton gin, I'll blow my brains out," Gross told his attorney, J. Mitchell Neumeister. Gross moved out of the home this past summer, and plans to temporarily live with his parents in his childhood hometown of Mahtomedi. ("Don't even fucking ask," Gross said.)

Matthew Collins, Kennedy Weiner

A previously happy marriage between these high school sweethearts took a turn for the troubled this past spring, when their respective therapists determined they were suffering from a ruinous lack of trust. Not

for the couple, for their therapists. Collins' counselor Samuel Rosen, 64, had determined that he could no longer carry on a relationship with Weiner's therapist Louisa Brodsky, 42, observing that Brodsky was "undermining my insights at every turn, and has clearly never outgrown issues with her father." Brodsky, for her part, informed Weiner that her husband's mind had been irreparably "poisoned" by the guidance of Rosen, whom she accused of obtaining a Ph.D. from "the Philip Roth University for Perverts Who Think They're Some Sort of Genius."

Jeremy Reed, Rodney Friedman

This handsome set of young Minneapolis professionals seemed like a match made in heaven: Reed, 30, and Friedman, 33, both work in the marketing departments of major corporations based in the Twin Cities. Though they got along wonderfully in their home life, and enjoyed time in the same social circles, Reed grew to resent Friedman for his disappointing online persona. Friedman's Instagram account was populated with "lame" photos of food he'd cooked or ordered, all too frequently out of focus, accompanied by an "embarrassing" lack of hashtags. These faux pas were in violation of Reed's number-one rule — "#alwaysbebranding" — and his continued association with Friedman was damaging a carefully crafted "personal product." He announced their separation via a subtweet, writing, "when you're in love but not in love with the brand #onwardandupward #donthatetheplayerhatethegame."

Carl Lang, Nicole Mueller

Roseville tax attorney Nicole Mueller,



Mike Mullen

36, used to affectionately explain her husband's near-constant vacuuming by saying he was "neat" and "quirky." As the years wore on, she began referring to Lang, a "solution architect" at Cargill, by other words. "Anal," she said, after he ironed a pair of socks. Alphabetizing a pasta cupboard was "a little obsessive." "Pathological," she whispered on a phone call with her mother while watching him brush the crumbs off a cracker. One morning in June, Mueller awoke to find Lang unloading and rearranging dirty items awaiting a run of the family dishwasher. Seeing Lang, Mueller began, "Oh, good, I'm glad you're awake." He then embarked on a two-minute, 41-second lecture on the proper organization of plates, to the left, and bowls, to the right, and how Mueller's haphazard method was not letting the washer spray fully reach the knives and wooden spoons on the upper shelf. "It's chaos," he said. As he finished his monologue, Lang wheeled around prepared to point an accusatory spatula, only to see that his then-wife had fled the home without pausing to close the back door. **CP**

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The night sky mirrors Ilhan Omar's mood: gray and funky. The 33-year-old Somali-born Minnesotan is known for keeping her face toward the sun. But on this August eve her Crest White smile hibernates.

Omar gazes at the floor. There will be no talk tonight about moving "forward together."

Omar needs time to feel sad. Not because she's ashamed of something she did, but because choices in her past are hurting people she loves, especially her three kids.

"My [13-year-old] daughter is old enough, she sees and hears things, and I can't protect her," Omar says. "She's starting to ask questions. What I don't understand is why is it every time the TV stations have a story about my shit they use a picture of our whole family?"

Two weeks before, Omar was the belle of the ball. Her DFL primary win over Mohamud Noor and 44-year incumbent Phyllis Kahn catapulted the former refugee to the doorway of the Minnesota House. Come November, Omar will become America's highest-ranking Somali elected to office. (Her Republican opponent, Abdimalik Askar, suspended his campaign in August.)

Allegations of bigamy and immigration fraud arrived 72 hours later. What was a political career primed for flight was now battered on the tarmac.

"If she can come out of this, I think she'll emerge as a more powerful figure," says Hamline University professor David Schultz. "People love her kind of story. It represents a new kind of leader in Minnesota politics. At this point who knows how this will play out."

Omar knows. She rights her turtled posture, sits straight, and peers out the window. She's reminded of what her grandfather taught her when she was a little girl in Somalia.

"Everything is temporary," Baba Abukar said.

"Everything is temporary," Omar repeats. "But right now, I am sad. Sad and angry."

Mogadishu to Minneapolis

Omar was born into a village of her own, the youngest of seven.

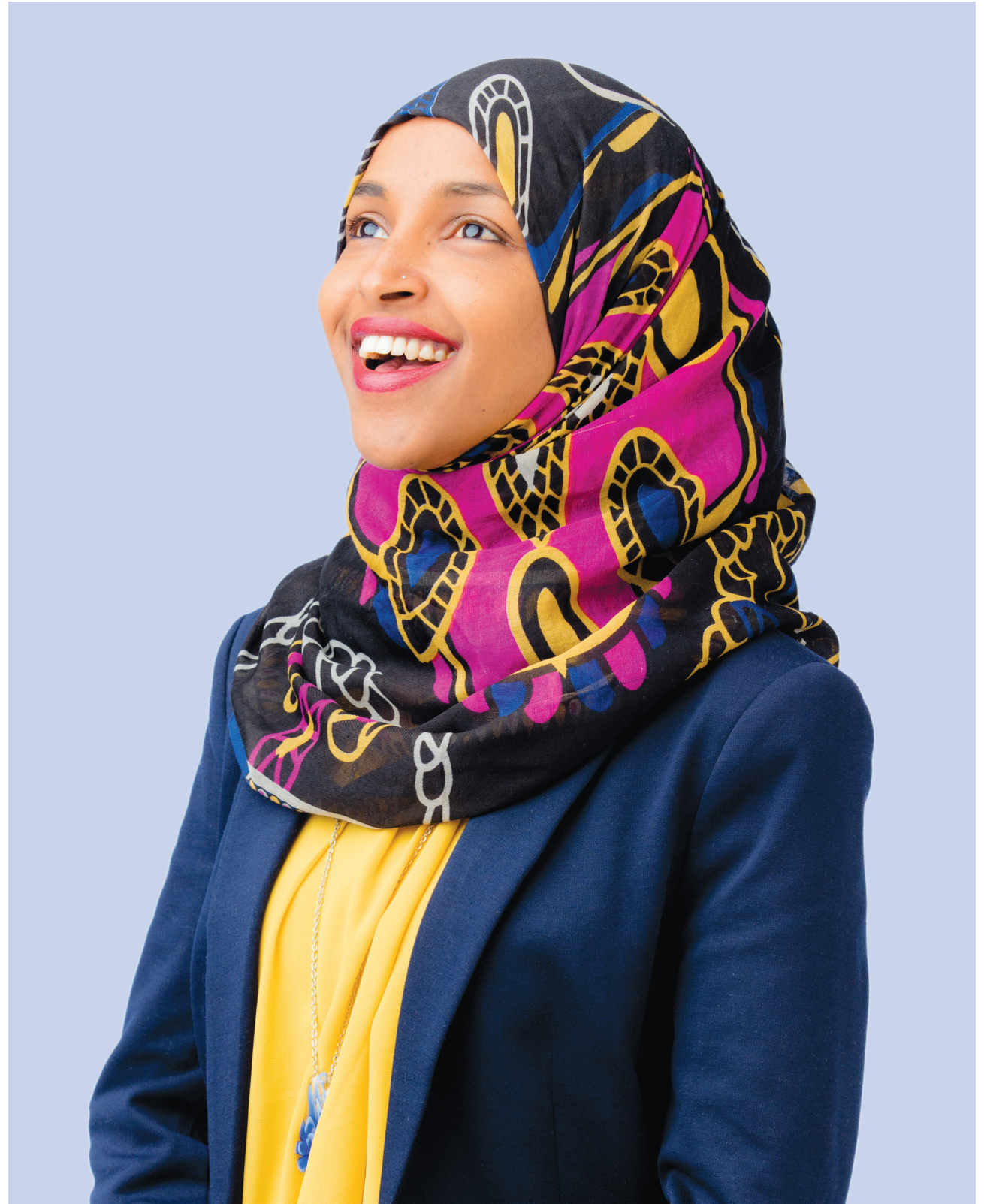
Her mother died when she was little. Men would shape her. Five older brothers, father Nur Said Elmi Mohamed, and her grandfather, Abukar, especially.

Aunts and uncles worked as civil servants and educators. Omar's father trained teachers. Theirs was a blessed life as Somalia began the transition from European colony to independence.

Her grandfather rode the winds of change to Italy, where he attended uni-

BRAVEHEART

Ilhan Omar's improbable journey from refugee camp to Minnesota Legislature *By Cory Zurowski*



SHELLY MOSMAN

versity. He returned to his East African homeland, becoming Somalia's National Marine Transport director. Abukar oversaw the string of lighthouses along the Arabian Sea coastline.

Privilege accompanied this kind of pedigree. Books and culture were priorities inside the home, which was more like a compound, complete with domestic help. In a country where 80 percent of the population farmed and raised livestock, Omar started kindergarten at age four.

But Somalia was a fragile country. Civil strife soon threatened to swallow it.

About 12 million people occupy this land about the size of Texas. It's overwhelmingly Muslim. Genealogy unites and divides.

Somalis belong to clans. These ethnic cliques can be about geography or marriage. Some possess age-old beliefs of superiority and consider members of sub-clans unsuitable for marriage, even friendship.

In 1991, the reign of Somali President Siad Barre imploded. The country had had enough of his Cold War-style military dictatorship. Barre was ousted, the national army disbanded. The ensuing vacuum devolved into a war among clans, turning neighbors into enemies. Omar witnessed this firsthand when she was eight years old.



DAVID JOLIS/STARTRIBUNE

Nighttime fell as about 20 people milled about the compound in Mogadishu, the Somali capital. Bad noises outside announced unwelcome visitors. Men with big guns demanded to be let in. The group tried to bust down the front door, but it was unbreakable. Omar and her family fell to the floor moments before the militiamen let go a staccato of gunfire. Once they were satisfied with the evening's damage, the attackers left.

Everyone survived. Omar hasn't forgot-

"She was so present, so sincere in her beliefs about issues," says Minneapolis City Council candidate Andrew Johnson about the first time he met Omar in early 2014.

ten the sight of bullet pockmarks in the building's cinderblock walls.

Shellshock turned to grief for Omar's grandpa.

"That was a hard realization for my

grandfather, that our family was no longer welcome," she says. "Even after the attack, he struggled with this new reality."

Days later, they put their familiar world in the rearview mirror. They split into groups, 20 people in total fleeing. Omar's headed for the coast where Abukar had connections. Alongside her father, she hopped a plane for Kenya.

"You go from knowing a life of certainty and joy to one where everything is uncertain," she says. "My family chose to go to Kenya because my grandfather had contacts there."

She lived with strangers in and around Nairobi. Memories of waking up each day feeling fear left mental scars.

Her dad and grandpa looked for a new country to call home. But immigration to a place like Canada, England, or the U.S. wasn't happening anytime soon. At least Kenya wouldn't kick them out.

When the goodwill of Abukar's contacts expired, two bad choices were left: live on the streets of Nairobi, a city of 10 million, or go to one of the refugee camps within Kenya.

The Utanga camp outside the coastal hub of Mombasa played across four square miles. Beneath the trees of the jungle canopy were beige tents as far as the eye could see.

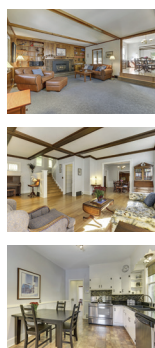
Somalis made up most of the camp's

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30,000 refugees. Waiting to use an out-house could eat up half the day. The threat of malaria was 24/7. The same could be said for personal safety — for some more than others.

Kidnappings for ransom loomed as the largest rogue activity at the UN camp. Since kidnappers usually targeted heads of families, Omar was tasked with fetching firewood and water. The routine lasted four years.

Finally, a Lutheran church sponsored Omar and her family for entry into the U.S.

Her American education began with orientation videos courtesy of the federal government.

“There were ones about grocery stores. What a highway looked like. It introduced you to what a shopping mall was,” says Omar. “It was green lawns and white townhouses.... Everything is beautiful. Everything is grandiose. Everything is just. All of these polished things you sell to the outside world.”

Their plane landed in New York City. Staring out a car window, Omar, age 12, felt ripped off. This wasn’t the same country as the one in the videos. Instead, it was a headache of car horns and homelessness, an eyesore of trash and graffiti.

She turned to her father in disbelief: “This doesn’t look like the America you promised.”

We’re getting to our America, Ilhan, he replied. You have to be patient.

They made the 230-mile drive south to Arlington, Virginia. It wasn’t long before Omar was sitting at a school desk. Her

During the heaviest days of the marriage controversy, Omar “could’ve cared less” about her uncertain political fortunes. It was her kids she was thinking about.

English at the time consisted of “hello” and “shut up.”

Classmates stuck gum to her headscarf when they weren’t trying to yank it off. None of her peers bothered to communicate, even to say hi. They stared instead. The new kid sat solo at lunch, a loner during recess as well.

Omar’s English improved. Then came her classmates’ questions: Does it feel good to wear shoes for the first time? Do you really have hair? Do you have a pet monkey?

“I’d say the kids were curiously brutal,” says Omar, “but the lunch ladies were kind to me.”

Back at the home where she lived with her father and siblings, change would again be in the works. Omar’s dad and older sister Sahra were having conversations about better schools, prospects of economic mobility, and becoming part of an already-established East African immigrant community.

Their road trip took place in the summer after Omar finished eighth grade. They were headed to a new land, where they’d heard “the people there were supposed to be nice,” Omar says.

The journey would end in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis. The teenager grew into a young woman

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over the next four years. She'd graduate from Edison High.

Omar credits Abukar for first exposing her to politics. In 1997, her grandfather planned to attend the DFL precinct caucus at the Brian Coyle Center. But he needed his 14-year-old granddaughter to act as translator.

Omar's eyes grew big walking into the bright lights, rainbows of campaign signs, and hundreds of conversations in different languages.

"The whole thing was just big. Not just physically with a lot of people, but what it was a part of," she says. "There was this platform. People could put forth ideas that could contribute. Knowing a conversation in a small room with someone could be released into the universe and become part of something much larger, there was something intoxicating about it for me."

Omar wanted more. She reached out to those she believed could teach her.

Jamal Abdulahi was one of them. Ten years her elder, Abdulahi would one day become a state DFL director and chair of the party's Somali caucus.

"At our first meeting over coffee, I sensed she was the kind of a newcomer to politics with enough ideas that with minimum guidance she would go out and figure out the rest," he says. "Even then, she was pretty explicit she wanted to get involved

in organizing and electoral politics. I told her to go to her precinct caucus."

She studied political science at North

**"TO BECOME
PART OF
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INTOXICATING
ABOUT IT
FOR ME."**

Dakota State, then returned to Minneapolis to work at the University of Minnesota. She'd show up at DFL meetings, volunteering whenever she could. Plunging into the deep end of activism meant serving on the boards of the Legal Rights Center, a nonprofit law firm specializing in restorative justice, and the Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota, a charity working to integrate new immigrants.

As Omar intertwined grassroots advocacy and party politics, her profile grew. Not everyone would embrace it. She knew

this would happen.

"Political power in Somalia rests with men," she says.

"I think there is a feeling by some people in politics and in my own community that the woman can think she's leading all that she wants, have a semblance of influence, but the ultimate voice rests with the man.... I am not one who subscribes to that belief."

Omar vs. Warsame

By early 2014, the former refugee had grown into her own kind of American-style multi-tasker. Her longtime yet imperfect relationship with Ahmed Hirsi had been blessed with three children. She worked as a public health educator, teaching about good eating habits while moonlighting in activism.

The latter brought her face to face with little-known Minneapolis City Council candidate Andrew Johnson.

A twentysomething IT geek and campaign greenhorn, Johnson decided he'd run for a seat representing the city's southeastern neighborhoods of Longfellow, Nokomis East, and Standish-Ericsson.

With Johnson canvassing for early support, Omar vetted the rookie candidate on behalf of the New Americans, an East African political action committee.

Johnson was struck.

"She was so present, so sincere in her beliefs about issues," he says.

Johnson would eventually tap Omar to be his campaign manager. Together, they'd win the council race. She'd serve as his policy advisor, which afforded observers an infrequent portal into the jockeying within Somali politics.

The day before February 2014's precinct caucus in Cedar-Riverside, Abdi Warsame, the first-term Minneapolis city councilman whose ward captures a large portion of the East African immigrant community, called Johnson into his office.

Warsame had become the highest elected Somali-American official in the U.S. four months earlier. He wanted Johnson to pass a message to Omar.

"Warsame told... Johnson he should warn [Omar] to stay away from the caucus or there could be trouble for her," MinnPost reporters James Nord and Briana Bierschbach would report.

The message baffled Johnson as he made the short walk back to his office. Omar's tears multiplied as he explained what had transpired.

"I didn't know what exactly he meant," Johnson tells City Pages. "I told her no one should tell you to stay home and not be involved in democracy. That's ridiculous."



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Warsame denies the conversation ever took place.

"This was an attempt to besmirch my name," he says. "I don't know why people would say that. I know we live in a very biased society.... When you happen to be one of the only Muslim, black, immigrant, and Somali elected officials, of course people want to throw mud at you."

Hundreds crowded the precinct meeting. Omar's job as a district vice chair was to ensure there was no chicanery.

An hour before the scheduled start, a group of supporters for Mohamud Noor, a Minneapolis School Board member vying to unseat state Rep. Phyllis Kahn, had congregated inside the building. Attendees would later describe the event's energy as charged, and not in a good way.

A contingent of Kahn's faithful soon walked in. An argument between the camps disintegrated into swinging arms and cocked legs.

A group of what was reported to be five people converged on Omar. She'd suffer a busted lip and a concussion.

Warsame says he wasn't at the caucus, although it was no secret he supported Kahn.

Omar would become a Noor campaign volunteer.

Warsame still dismisses the notion he and Omar are somehow adversaries.

"You also have to remember, in 2014, Ms. Omar wasn't that important," Warsame says. "As I said, I don't know her very well."

The diplomacy is lost on Omar. She characterizes Warsame as an old-school bully and modern-day sexist.

"I think the disdain between us stems from that first conversation he had with... Johnson," she says. "I have never understood or appreciated [Warsame's] brand of misogyny.... To say I have a voice, that the women in our community won't be silenced, I believe is ultimately what led to me being attacked."

Body parts ached and brain funk hadn't fully lifted as Omar arrived for work the

morning after the attack.

Her eldest daughter urged her to get back to her City Hall desk ASAP. The girl said she needed to show the people who want to intimidate her that "they don't have control over you."

Noor would eventually lose to Kahn.

A year later, Omar decided to try for the seat herself.

The future revealed

The faithful shuffled into a Minneapolis middle school last April for the DFL nominating convention. Three candidates vied for the party's official nod: Kahn, Noor, and Omar.

Omar appeared primed for victory. As Johnson's campaign manager, she'd learned what it meant to hump on the election trail. Omar employed a two-pronged strategy of connecting with university students while cultivating support and chipping away at the stubborn resistance inside her own community.

Omar scored 55 percent of the delegates, 23 points ahead of Kahn. But she still needed Noor to direct his single-digit support to her camp. Eleven votes was all that stood between her and the all-too-important party endorsement.

The event ended in a stalemate. The DFL primary in August would be a three-way race.

Hudda Ibrahim, a St. Cloud Tech and Community College faculty member and editor-in-chief at Somalichurrent.com, has an explanation.

"[Noor] cannot lose to a Somali woman," she says. "So when a woman is running for office, our male-dominated society will try to undermine the woman."

(Neither Kahn nor Noor responded to repeated interview requests.)

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Nasser Mussa, a former Humphrey School of Public Affairs fellow who's known Omar for years, watched silently as the primary neared. People inside the district were telling him plenty.

"She was doing a good job of using old-fashioned political tools, mobilizing people, and organizing across economic lines," says Mussa. "People forget that you don't win the district with support from just one group or another. You need a coalition."

That was proving to be no easy task. There were some votes Omar would never get.

"I had women in my community tell me, 'Ilhan, I want to vote for you, but my husband won't allow it,'" she says.

The skyscrapers of downtown Minneapolis watched as a Seward restaurant pulsed on an August night. Hundreds packed Omar's primary headquarters at Kalsan Restaurant. They roared minutes past 10 when media outlets reported her victory, a triumph that found its way to the pages of the New York Times.

Omar was swallowed in hugs. Young women looked on, crying.

"Her political success drew on her Somali identity, but it was much more than that," University of Minnesota professor Lawrence Jacobs says. "I think that the real political ingenuity of Ilhan Omar was her being able to speak to multiple communities rather than being the spokesperson for one ethnic community."

The night belonged to Omar. Controversy would steal it.

"The shit show"

Soon, a new story emerged from the conservative blogosphere: Omar had been married to two men at once, and one was her brother.

Power Line's Scott Johnson reported that Omar married Hirsi in 2002. Seven years later, Johnson alleged, she wed "her brother Ahmed Nur Said Elmi," which would make her guilty of "marriage and immigration fraud" and bigamy.

Johnson had a document showing Omar had pulled a marriage license application in 2002, but never officially registered it with the state. She'd wed Elmi in 2009, a Minnesota marriage certificate proved. But the blogger lacked proof that Omar and Elmi were blood relatives.

The unsubstantiated report grew into a media maelstrom. Stories appeared in the Star Tribune and City Pages, as well as on WCCO, FOX 9, and KSTP.

"I look at the soap opera, the shit show of what people might consider to be in their discovery of things, there isn't anything to what's being insinuated or anything there to bite me in the ass," Omar says. "What I'm surprised about are... the particular things that are appropriate to insinuate without any legitimacy or facts.

I think if certain factors weren't in play, this wouldn't be considered acceptable."

Former deputy Republican Party state chairman Michael Brodtkorb says that's true — to a point. Omar's tale was being reported through the optics of a presidential race, which has been awash with talk of border walls and mass deportations. At the same time, Omar hasn't done herself any favors,

**"TO SAY I HAVE
A VOICE, THAT
THE WOMEN IN
OUR COMMUNITY
WON'T BE
SILENCED... LED
TO ME BEING
ATTACKED."**

says Brodtkorb. Power Line's story elicited two statements from her camp. The first chalked up the charges to "Donald Trump-style misogyny, racism, anti-immigration rhetoric, and Islamophobic division."

"I think she ratcheted up some of the rhetoric with that response," Brodtkorb says. "Most Minnesotans would think, 'Are you married?' to be an easy question to answer. Since it hasn't been for her, I think that's alarming to some."

In this political season, such seeming evasiveness makes for rich soil. As a result, Brodtkorb isn't surprised "to see a candidate with Omar's background being targeted."

But, he adds, "There appear to be lingering questions."

Omar's explanation goes like this: While they were never officially married under Minnesota law, Hirsi is her husband, her life partner, and father of her kids.

The couple fell out of love sometime before 2009. During that period, Omar legally married Elmi. She and Elmi eventually separated. Omar reconciled with Hirsi in 2011, marrying in their "faith tradition," a commitment that's recognized within their community, but not under Minnesota law. She has yet to legally divorce Elmi.

"There are particular challenges to getting a legal divorce," Omar says. "One of those is getting the cooperation and presence of the other person who you are divorcing."

Elmi resides in England. He couldn't be reached for comment. Omar wouldn't permit City Pages to talk to Hirsi, saying, "I have never made my personal life part of my platform, my campaign. So no, that's not going to happen."

Omar vs. Warsame, Part II

During the campaign homestretch, Omar exhales.



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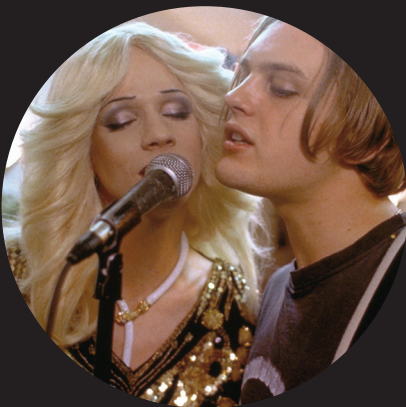
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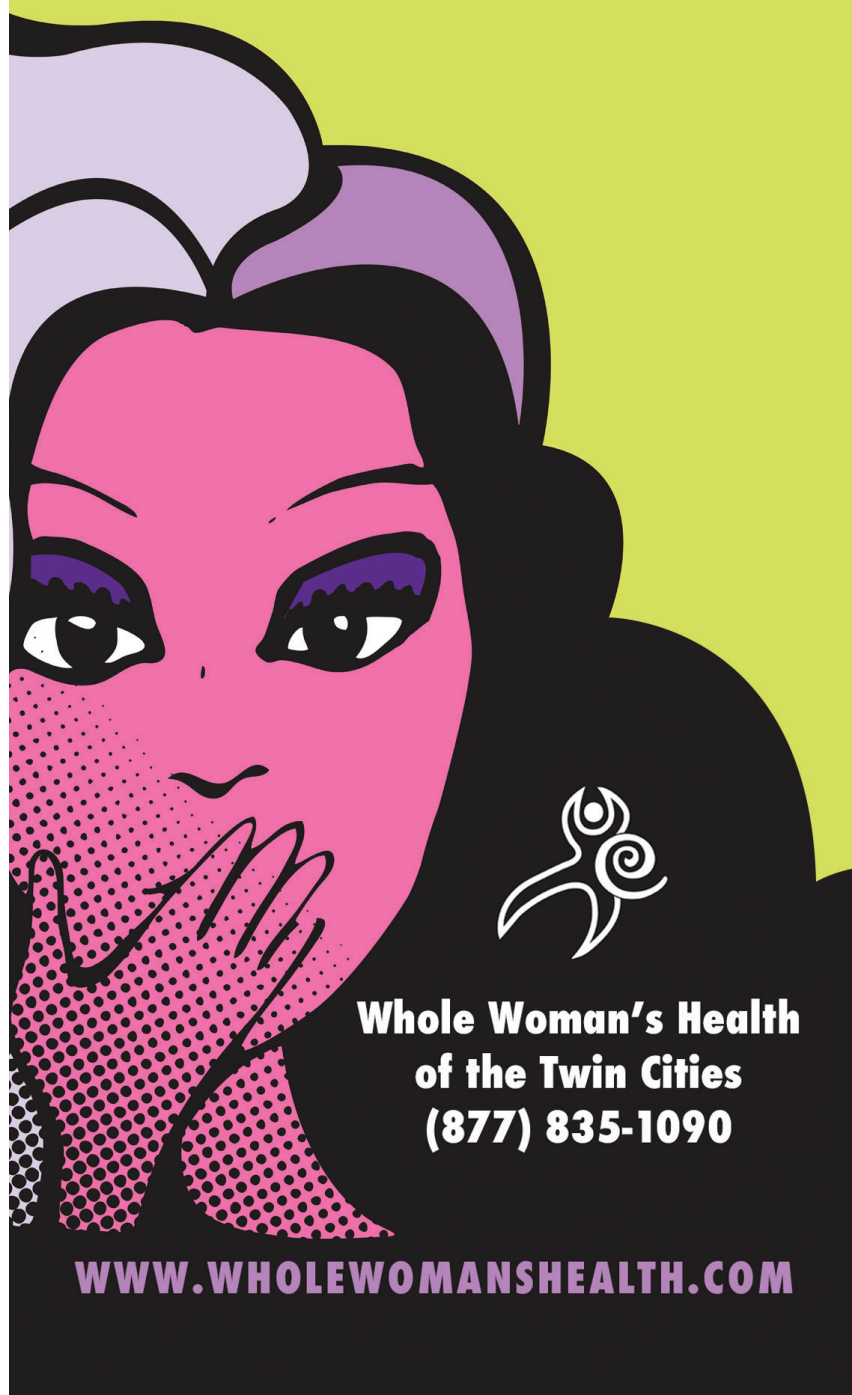
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She sits pensively inside a Seward coffee shop. Her legs are crossed. She wears pink-and-orange flip-flops, her top foot twitching while she fidgets with the bracelets on her wrist.

Her Crest White smile returns. Her vibe is lighter, yet Omar admits she struggles to reconcile some of what's transpired.

"What's been hard to come to terms with is how these people have been really reckless," says Omar.

She fingers some within her own community for planting the marriage story.

"You have to think, who benefits from lessening my influence and my power?" says Omar. "Those within my community who have had power and influence, who are now going to have to come to terms with a woman more powerful, more notable, more high in stature and

City Council Member Abdi Warsame says that two years ago Omar "wasn't that important." That's no longer the case.

image from day one of walking into the Legislature," he says. "She had the real opportunity to walk in and make connections with folks who don't usually work with Somalis and really open up some minds. Instead, there'll be those who think, 'Oh there's that Muslim woman who married her brother.'"

Hamline professor Schultz concurs. As he sees it, "the crude swipe" was designed to injure right off the bat: "Maybe damaging a rising star is enough and that's what you wanted to achieve."

Warsame has no time to answer "tabloid" questions. He denies having any connection to the leak, saying, "I was just as shocked as everyone else when it came out."

Instead, he prefers to talk about his accomplishments, like "giving" Cedar-Riverside newly paved roads when the old ones had resembled something in "the Third World."

"Ms. Omar is on her way to become an elected official in the state of Minnesota," he continues. "I'm proud of that because that's part of my work. I'm proud Ms. Omar came after me.... Her election would pose no problem for me. What I can say is [she's] a vindication for my work."

When asked to respond to Warsame's comments, Omar doesn't. Her slight smile is a mix of indignation and resigned humor. She knows there will be "some public discomfort" with a Muslim woman as a state lawmaker.

"I consider myself to be a fighter who's pretty optimistic about the possibilities of the world, and someone who thinks we all have shared values regardless of our background, our faith," Omar says. ☐

**"I HAVE NEVER
MADE MY
PERSONAL LIFE
PART OF MY
PLATFORM,
MY CAMPAIGN."**

political standing... previously elected officials within my community, that's who comes to mind."

She names Warsame, saying, "I think the kind of power I was growing and cultivating was going to be too much for someone like him."

What kind of pull that will be remains debatable. Johnson says the marriage story was never intended to take Omar down. If it was, it would have been leaked before the primary.

"If you think about the timing, it's obvious it was intended to diminish her

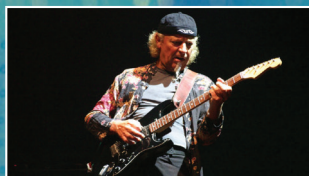
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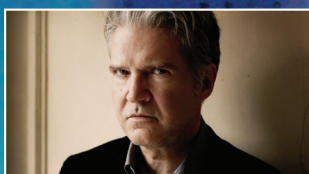
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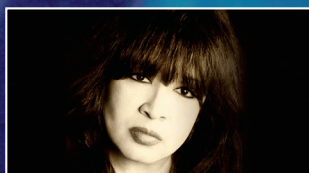
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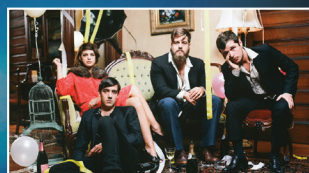
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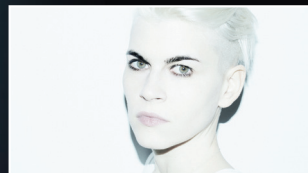
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“I’m always gonna make food that the ordinary diner is gonna eat and get a value out of.”

Chef Heidi Marsh is fresh off a meeting with a South Carolina-based grits purveyor, and sitting in the vintage yet futuristic confines of Hi-Lo Diner on East Lake Street.

The silvery capsule looks a bit like a spaceship dropped from on high, out of some other, far more stylish place than Earth. In fact, it came from only as far away as Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, where it stood successfully as the Venus Diner for half a century.

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pedigree and price structure. When it adheres as closely as possible to an ordinary diner for the ordinary diner, Hi-Lo offers an experience that is tough to beat.

Hi-Lo’s owners, Rebekah Cook, Mike Smith, and James Brown, are also the owners of Modern Forage Workshop Furniture Store, situated across the street. They say they got tired of looking at the lot’s former tenant, a defunct Taco Bell, every day.

As purveyors of designer ottomans and beard oil that “leaves behind the deep leathery richness of a cobbler’s apron,” the three might have been tempted to go full-fledged hipster with Hi-Lo’s menu and sensibility. But they didn’t. They wisely partnered with the culinary team responsible for the Blue Door Pub empire, the re-inventors of the Jucy Lucy, who manage to keep classics classic while

simultaneously, ever-so-slightly agitating the waters.

Hi-Lo mostly manages a similar equilibrium.

Marsh knew there had to be pancakes, because when you get to a diner, you want to be able to exclaim, “I smell pancakes!” So she started there. Here they’re crepe-like, floppy, and fragrant as pie, not the inch-thick leviathans that seem to mock you from the plate. “I didn’t want them so thick you couldn’t even walk down the street afterward.” Check.

The burger is another standard Marsh has knocked out of the park. She tinkered with a custom blend of chuck, short rib, and brisket until she was happy with it, using celebrity butcher Pat LaFrieda’s blend (the blend that made Shake Shack famous) as inspiration. It’s as perfect as any burger gets.

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The fries are crinkle cut, a diner classic, and I could have sworn they were hand-cut. They’re not. “Ours are crinkle cut, out of a bag, because that’s something that diners do. But,” Marsh adds, “there’s always a little secret thing.” That little secret thing is these fries get a dose of potato chip spice that they grind and mix in-house.

The Hi-Tops, the diner’s signature dish of fried dough piled high with either sweet or savory accompaniments, were one of the few menu ideas suggested by the owners. The secret to these is that Marsh spent weeks watching videos of how they make doughnuts in the South. She even took

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ALMA GUZMAN

inspiration from American Indian fry-bread tacos, and also from Mojo Monkey Donuts, arguably St. Paul's finest doughnut purveyor. Once she was happy with the result, she began working on toppings. They now crank out about 1,500 weekly.

While a few of the Hi-Top flavor combinations work, to my mind they don't work well enough to justify taking up eight menu slots. One that does deserve your attention is their biggest seller: the Gary Cooper. This Hi-Top gets bombed with buttermilk fried chicken, maple bourbon syrup, and country gravy. As we speak, a lone diner waves off an offer of a menu, and orders a Gary Cooper. She knows what she'll be having, thank you.

It works because it's in the chicken-and-waffles family, and fried chicken just goes naturally well with the sweetness of the pastry and syrup. But others, like the Yum Yum Yum, don't pass muster, with braised Korean short rib, apple-bacon slaw, and wasabi microgreens looking like they got invited to the wrong party, riding awkwardly on top of a doughnut. Others, like Argentinian shrimp with adobo or a take on a BLT, seem even more out of place. My advice would be to keep the Gary Cooper, and 86 the rest.

The Commercial sandwich is as close as we can get around here to the legendary scratch-made, countrified truckstop cooking of middle America. White cheddar-striated biscuits form the base, then prime rib, mountains of classic potato puree straight out of the spring-loaded scoop, and a generous pour of rich beef gravy. Ribbons of racy

horseradish cream finish things like a mic drop. It's powerful.

Hash Stuffed Hash is a flash of genius straight off the farm, from when the owners worked as farmhands. You can taste the sincerity in it. Hashbrowns bed down with big nuggets of corned beef, Hollandaise, griddle-frizzled peppers and onions, and the crowning glory of two runny eggs. It's everything a hard worker longs for in a morning meal and nothing she doesn't.

But when the kitchen strays too far from the standards, you want to toss a lasso around its torso and reel it in. The Pastrami Silo is a good example of a lasso-able offense. The already perfect pastrami sandwich gets flipped on its head:

Meat is stuffed into a crispy baguette, Hot-Pocket style, and then blasphemed with sweet chile aioli. Marsh admits that it's an "ugly duckling" and will probably come off the menu soon.

But happily, the menu isn't too changeable at Hi-Lo, nor do they need it to be. Among other things that remain the same are the cheerful staff, the diner-style coffee service that can have you all but guarding your cup beneath the table, the boozy ice cream cocktails that are gloriously more booze than ice cream, and pie. So, so much pie. Pie is technically the only dessert on offer. And this detail alone — the belief that a good pie is good enough — is the sort of thing that will land Hi-Lo in the realm of the Good and the Real and the Here to Stay.

Hi-Lo's highs come from their willingness to stay grounded in the best possible ways. **GF**

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A LIST

FRIDAY Flip Phone rings Beyonce P. 24

SATURDAY Transmission goes psycho for 1983 P. 28

SUNDAY First Avenue hosts an epic Halloween party P. 30



Artists enter the world of dreams for "Midnight" at Light Grey Art Lab.

LUISA RIVERA, THE BOND

WEDNESDAY 10.26

COMEDY

BLISS & WEINSTEIN

ACME COMEDY CO.

It's a show that only Twin Cities audiences get to enjoy, as Chris Bliss and Josh "J. Elvis" Weinstein return for their annual run of shows at Acme. "We stand out there with each other and, as the spirit moves, comment on whatever the other act is saying at the

time," Bliss explains. It's not always beneficial to be the one trying to subvert the other guy's act, however. "If you dig a hole for him, he's just going to turn it over to you," he continues. "So there are a lot of conflicts of interest in this show. That's what this show should be called: Conflicts of Interest." Weinstein continues to make documentaries when he's not doing standup. In 2015, *Michael Des Barres: Who Do You Want Me to Be* received the Melvyn Douglass Best in Show award at the Macon Film

Festival. Meanwhile, Bliss is working on his Bill of Rights Monument project. That organization seeks to place a tribute in every state capital. Friday's shows are Bliss-only. 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday — P.F. WILSON**

COMEDY

NORE DAVIS

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Nore Davis is a standup comedian and native New Yorker. "I grew up in the 'hood, I was born in the 'hood," he tells an audience. He later lived with his father in what he describes as a nice neighborhood in Yonkers. His cousin, who sometimes visited, had some advice: Don't forget where you came from. Davis doesn't disagree, but is uncomfortable with the expression "born in the 'hood." "It makes it sound like my mother never made it to the hospital," he tells an audience, "like she had me right there in front of the bodega." Davis has made several television appearances, including a spot on his good friend Amy Schumer's hot Comedy Central program. He's also appeared on *Boardwalk Empire*, *Nikki & Sara Live*, and *Last Week Tonight*. 18+; 21+ later shows. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$13-\$22. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday — P.F. WILSON**

THURSDAY 10.27

THEATER

TC HORROR FEST

THE SOUTHERN THEATER

Theater often explores frightening situations (see: O'Neill), existential horror (see: Beckett), and just plain misery (see: Chekhov). But it's not too often that you see intestines spilling onto the stage and blood gushing from actors' throats. The Twin Cities Horror Festival is here to change that. It's back for a fifth year of things that go bump — and sometimes more

than bump — in the night. Without *World War Z*-size budgets, count on creativity to spur the scares in this mini-festival for theatergoers who aren't faint of heart. Though the tickets are affordable (with discounts for those who are down for multiple doses of dread), these aren't cheap thrills. The 10 productions taking the stage at the Southern include shows by some of the area's best and most creative small theater companies. Savage Umbrella, Four Humors, Dangerous Productions, and others will present works with words like "zombie," "severed," "revenge," "shadows," and "hot dog" in their titles. Prepare to be pleasantly — which is to say, unpleasantly — surprised. Tickets and showtimes can be found at tchrorrifestival.com. \$15.12 per show; packages range from \$55.98 to \$157.42. 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis; 612-326-1811.

Through November 6 — JAY GABLER

FILM/POETRY

MOTIONPOEMS

WALKER ART CENTER

Sixteen poems become 16 films for the seventh season of MotionPoems. The event celebrates the interplay between words and images, as artists of page and pixels collaborate. Years ago, after seeing poet Todd Boss perform his work at Nina's Coffee Cafe in St. Paul, animator Angella Kassube asked if he'd be interested in turning a poem into a film. They found success with that work, and started introducing other poets to video artists. From there, the series was born. This year, MotionPoems partners with Cave Canem, a Brooklyn center for black poets, to produce poems from talents like Cynthia Manick, Kyle Dargan, and Glenis Redmond. This evening also features the unveiling of future MotionPoems projects, including a series of children's films co-produced by Poetry Foundation. 6 p.m.; 8 p.m. Tickets are free, but it's recommended that you reserve a seat for \$10 at mopo2016.splashthat.com. 1750 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. —SHEILA REGAN

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A-LIST



Raisin still
has relevance.

PETRONELLA J. YTSMA

FRIDAY 10.28

HALLOWEEN STRANGE THINGS: A HALLOWEEN PARTY

MILL CITY NIGHTS

We're expecting to see a lot of Elevens and Barbs out at the bars this weekend. If you're one of them, and you want a matching party to go with your getup, you'll have plenty of options. One *Stranger Things*-inspired happening is at Mill City Nights, where pop-up party Flip Phone will be teaming up with DJ Shannon Blowtorch. Here you'll dance the night away to tunes both spooky and poppy. Head down to the basement for guaranteed bangers from Beyonce all night. Milk from *RuPaul's Drag Race* (season six) will be meeting fans, and performances from drag queens Nocturna Lee Mission, Sunny Kiriama, and Vincent the Destroyer will add a little sparkle to your freaky Friday. 18+. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$10/\$12 at the door. 111 Fifth St. N., Minneapolis; 612-333-3422. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

ART/GALLERY

MIDNIGHT

LIGHT GREY ART LAB

Dreams have always been fruitful ground for artists. Time spent in la la land allows imaginations to run free, and offers plenty to psychoanalyze. Light Grey Art Lab's latest show, "Midnight," explores the hidden meanings behind dreams. For the exhibition, 80 artists were asked to recall an unusually vivid dream and interpret it through a visual medium. Each work will include a brief synopsis of the dream alongside it. Bring your interpretation skills, and get ready to journey to the realm of the unconscious. You can also submit your take on the

meanings of each dream via Light Grey's website. The opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, October 28, includes music and refreshments. 118 E. 26th St., Ste. 101, Minneapolis; 612-239-2047.

Through November 19 —SHEILA REGAN

THEATER

A RAISIN IN THE SUN

PARK SQUARE THEATRE

Lorraine Hansberry's revered play was the first African-American penned work to be produced on Broadway, and featured African-American actors in a storyline informed by the African-American experience. Setting this landmark status aside, however, this latest staging intends to remind audiences of the urgent relevancy of Hansberry's tale. Telling the story of the Youngers, a black family living below the poverty line in Chicago, *A Raisin in the Sun* has lost none of its power to capture the merciless cycle of economic despair and racial disparity. When a sudden inheritance unexpectedly opens up a new world of possibilities, the Youngers find themselves divided over how to use the money to get ahead in a racially prejudiced America. Under the assured direction of Warren C. Bowles, this ambitious production reflects complex family dynamics and contemporary questions of equality with a tremendous cast, headlined by Greta Oglesby as the Younger matriarch and Darius Dotch as her headstrong son Walter Lee. The show is in previews through November 3. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, plus Wednesday, November 2; 2 p.m. Sundays, plus Saturdays through November 5. \$40-\$60; \$27-\$37 previews. 20 W. Seventh Pl., St. Paul; 651-291-7005. **Through November 20 —BRAD RICHASON**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 ►

JOHNNY NO CASH BAND



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FRIDAY
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11.5.16

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\$10 NOV 30 GSHARP & THE BIZNESS COSTUME CONTEST \$250 PRIZE DOORS AT 7PM, EVENT ENDS AT 1AM	\$10 NOV 31 GSHARP & THE BIZNESS THE BEST BAND MONEY CAN BUY! DOORS AT 7PM, EVENT ENDS AT 1AM	NO COVER NOV 1 GEORGE SCOTT MCKELVEY MUSIC FROM THE 70'S, 80'S, 90'S	\$5 NOV 2 THE BAD COMPANIONS SHANNON & BILLS ROCKABILLY SWING DANCE NIGHT DANCE LESSONS START AT 8PM	\$5 NOV 3 JOHNNY NO CASH OLD SCHOOL HONKY-TONK AND AUTHENTIC CLASSIC COUNTRY & WESTERN	\$20 NOV 4 BILL KIRCHEN & AUSTIN DE LONE REPRESENT THE CORE ELEMENTS OF AMERICANA MUSIC - R&B, COUNTRY & ROCK. ADVANCE TICKETS \$18	\$8 NOV 5 HOOKERS AND BLOW HI-ENERGY ROCKIN' DANCE GROOVES FROM 60/70'S
\$10 6 GSHARP & THE BIZNESS THE BEST BAND MONEY CAN BUY! DOORS AT 7PM, EVENT ENDS AT 1AM	7 CLOSED	NO COVER 8 WALTER CHANCELLOR POWER DUO A TWIN CITIES JAZZ ICON	\$5 9 THE MODERN SOVRANS SHANNON & BILLS ROCKABILLY SWING DANCE NIGHT DANCE LESSONS START AT 8PM	\$5 10 OLD COUNTRY BOYS VINTAGE/CLASSIC COUNTRY	\$5 11 MOTEL SIXX W/ SICK TWISTED PUPPIES MÖTLEY CRÜE & STONE TEMPLE PILOTS TRIBUTE BANDS.	\$12 12 PAUL CEBAR BAND FUNKY, PERCUSSIVE AMERICANA AND SOUL MUSIC THAT IS BOTH RETRO AND TIMELESS.
\$10 13 GSHARP & THE BIZNESS THE BEST BAND MONEY CAN BUY! DOORS AT 7PM, EVENT ENDS AT 1AM	\$10 14 MARBIN OPENERS: LUCID VANGUARD, WTF (WARREN THOMAS FENZI), CHRISTIAN WHEELER ADVANCE TICKETS \$8	\$6 15 KILLING RAPUNZEL HARD ROCK BAND FROM WAUSAU, WISCONSIN	\$5 16 THE RIVERSIDE ROCKETS SHANNON & BILLS ROCKABILLY SWING DANCE NIGHT DANCE LESSONS START AT 8PM	\$4 17 BRITTANY SENSOR BAND	\$5 18 RED DIRT ROAD ROCKIN' COUNTRY SIX PIECE POWERHOUSE, FRONTED BY HUSBAND/WIFE DUO	\$6 19 RIVVRS & THE WALCOTTS ECLECTIC BLEND OF ALTERNATIVE FOLK, POP, AND SOUL ACCOMPANIED BY R&B, SOUL AND COUNTRY
\$10 20 GSHARP & THE BIZNESS THE BEST BAND MONEY CAN BUY! DOORS AT 7PM, EVENT ENDS AT 1AM	21 CLOSED	NO COVER 22 WALTER CHANCELLOR POWER DUO A TWIN CITIES JAZZ ICON	\$12 23 E.L.n.O. V. FUN, HIGHLY DANCEABLE E.L.O. TRIBUTE BAND! ADVANCE TICKETS \$10	24 CLOSED THANKSGIVING	\$6 25 MITCH GORDON & THE UNLEADED BAND HI-ENERGY COUNTRY CLASSICS & WELL-CRAFTED ORIGINALS; A WINSTOCK FEST FAVE!	\$7 26 RITUAL MADNESS PODCAST PRESENTS AN EVENING OF METAL SPONSORED BY PABST BLUE RIBBON

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LUKE COMBS
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JERRY FOLK
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THE DESTINATION TOUR
AMBRÉ
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JESSE JOHNSON
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1/15 **WRESTLEPALOOZA IX** 18+
1/20 **THE DEVIL MAKES THREE** 18+
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2/26 **AARON LEWIS - THE SINNER TOUR** 18+
3/10 **MAC SABBATH WITH METALACHI - THE 2017 MOCKSTROSITY TOUR** w/ OKILLY DOKILLY, METALLAGHER 18+
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7TH ST ENTRY

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11/01 **ABISHA UHL, THE BLONDE FONZIES, AND THERAPY** 18+
11/02 **WALDO - THE EVER WONDERFUL TOUR** w/ THE SEVENTH, WHY KHALIQ, AND RICH GARVEY 18+
11/04 **BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH** 18+
11/05 **LEE HARVEY OSMOND** w/ JIM AND SAM, KOLEY O'BRIEN 18+
11/06 **TRAILS AND WAYS** w/ KAZYAK, ASTRAL SAMARA 18+
11/07 **JEFF ROSENSTOCK** w/ HARD GIRLS, KATIE ELLEN 18+
11/08 **MC CHRIS** w/ MC LARS, MEGA RAN 18+
11/09 **DINGUS** w/ SHOT MEMORY, GRAMMA, HEART TO GOLD 18+
11/10 **MANITOBA X MINNESOTA MUSIC EXCHANGE** ft. ZULUZULUU, LANIKAI, SLEEPING JESUS, SCOTT NOLAN 18+

TURF CLUB

- 10/28 **THE BOXER REBELLION** w/ HEY ANNA, RY COX 21+
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10/29 **ARCWELDER** w/ RINGOUT!, NEW AGE HEALERS 21+
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10/31 **SOLID GOLD AND AERO FLYNN** w/ FORT WILSON RIOT 21+
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11/06 **THE GILDED PALACE SINNERS** 21+
11/09 **THE GOOD LIFE** w/ JAKE BELLOWES, OQUOA, OUR FOX 21+
11/10 **AN EVENING WITH SLOAN - ONE CHORD TO ANOTHER 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR** 21+

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BAD SUNS
w/ COIN
at FINE LINE
\$20/\$35 RESERVED BALCONY
7PM/18+



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27
WET
w/ DEMO TAPED
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$16/7PM/18+



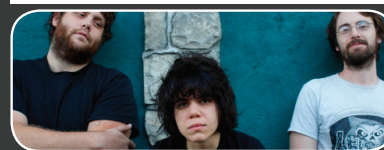
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28
BEACH SLANG (ACOUSTIC)
AND BLEACHED
w/ HUNNY
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$16/8PM/18+



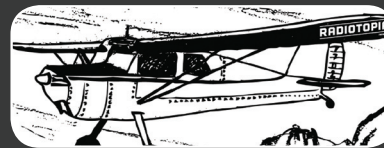
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29
NEON INDIAN AND CLASSIXX
w/ HARRIET BROWN
at FINE LINE
\$25/\$40 RESERVED BALCONY
8PM/18+



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENT
TOMMY STINSON'S COWBOYS IN THE CAMPFIRE
w/ JOHN SWARDSON
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$20/7PM/18+



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1
SCREAMING FEMALES
w/ MOOR MOTHER, EPIC DOWNTIME
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$12/8PM/18+



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6
CRIMINAL: A PODCAST
at THE CEDAR
\$20/7PM/ALL AGES



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8
NIYKEE HEATON: CENTERFOLD TOUR
at FINE LINE
\$20/7PM/18+

- 11/09 **K.FLAY** w/ NIGHTLY, MISSIO at Fine Line
11/10 **CRX** w/ STREETS OF LAREDO, THE GLOOMIES at Triple Rock
11/11 **MURDER BY DEATH** w/ LAURA STEVENSON at Fine Line
11/12 **BAND OF HORSES** w/ WILD BELLE at State Theatre
11/12 **RUFUS DU SOL** w/ ROLAND TINGS, ATLAS BOUND at Fine Line
11/13 **SNAKEHIPS** w/ CHARLES MURDOCH at Fine Line
11/13 **LEMAITRE** w/ CHET PORTER, COUCHERON at Triple Rock
11/18 **THE SOUNDS - PERFORMING 'DYING TO SAY THIS TO YOU' TO CELEBRATE 10 YEARS** w/ ZIPPER CLUB, MY JERUSALEM at Fine Line
11/20 **SNOW THA PRODUCT** at Fine Line
11/23 **ANIMALS AS LEADERS - THE MADNESS OF MANY TOUR** w/ INTERVALS, PLINI at Fine Line
11/28 **ATMOSPHERE - FRESHWATER FLY FISHERMAN TOUR** w/ BROTHER ALI, DEM ATLAS, AND MORE at Clyde Iron Works (Duluth, MN)
12/01 **JIM JAMES** w/ TWIN LIMB at State Theatre
12/14 **HELMET - 2016 DEAD TO THE WORLD US TOUR** w/ LOCAL H at Fine Line
1/06 **CRACKER AND CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN** at Fine Line
1/25 **BEAR'S DEN** at Fine Line
1/28 **WAX TAILOR** at Fine Line

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A-LIST



COURTESY OF HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST

TALK

DAVID SEDARIS

STATE THEATRE

It's not exactly standup. It's not a reading, either. But David Sedaris tours better than most comedians and authors, hopping from theater to theater under the title of "humorist," telling stories, critiquing society, and, well, being himself. What to expect when he takes the State Theatre stage this fall? Witty quips on fashion, travel, the election, and picking up litter in West Sussex, where he now lives, are all likely. Perhaps a dramatic interpretation of one of his many essays published in the New Yorker will follow. He may even whip out a few diary entries that form the basis of his next book, *Theft by Finding*, due out next year. You never know what you're going to get with Sedaris, but you can bet it's going to get laughs. The author's previous books total 10 million copies in print, and include *Me Talk Pretty One Day* and *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls*. Sedaris has also collaborated with his sister Amy Sedaris to write several plays under the name "The Talent Family," and can frequently be heard on NPR. 8 p.m. \$36.50-\$46.50. 805 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 800-982-2787. —ERICA RIVERA

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

THEATER

FIGHT NIGHT: HALLOWEEN EDITION

BRYANT-LAKE BOWL

This weekend at Bryant-Lake Bowl, heroes and villains won't be dishing out tricks or treats. Instead, they'll be brawling with swords, axes, knives, bricks, and anything else that isn't

nailed down. Theatre Coup d'Etat will join with Adam Scarpello from Staged Steel Armory for a special variety show entirely based on combat. The evening will include politicians (with two weeks until Election Day, we know of at least two people likely to show up and throw down), fictional characters like Macbeth and Darth Vader, and historical figures standing toe-to-toe onstage. The night isn't just about bloodshed, however, as audience participation and witty rapport with the referee will ensure that you'll laugh, cheer, and embrace your primal urge to hit something. Bring your helmet and a thirst for hilarious violence, because this Halloween is going to kick ass — literally. 9:30 p.m. doors. \$10-\$15 sliding scale. 810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis; 612-825-8949. —PATRICK STRAIT

SATURDAY 10.29

BARHOPPING/BEER

LIMITED ACTION BEER FEST

GRUMPY'S BAR & GRILL

Enjoy the beers you sample at this special happening, because you will never taste them again. For this gathering, breweries were asked to come up with concoctions using three things: Grumpy's Northeast hops, something Minnesotan, and something purple. Will there be a beer inspired by Prince and wild rice? Or lavender and the Vikings? You'll have to show up to find out. Participants include Bent Paddle, East Lake, Fair State, Indeed, Modist, NorthGate, and Sweet Land Orchard. 21+. 2 to 7 p.m. Free. 1111 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-340-9738. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

HALLOWEEN

TRANSMISSION: HALLOWEEN 1983

PSYCHO SUZI'S MOTOR LOUNGE

In honor of All Hallows' Eve, Transmission will be traveling to Psycho Suzi's. The night will pay homage — unironically, dear hipsters — to 1983. Come in costume, or just arrive in your '80s best, and dance the night away as Jake Rudh spins weird, dark, and creepy tunes from the era. We expect a few old-school goths, punks, and normcore looks this evening. If dapper is more your thing, consider hopping on your bike and heading to Washburn Fair Oaks Park (2200 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis), where folks will be meeting for the Tweed Ride and making their way to the party from there. The group meets at 5 and rolls out around 6 p.m. 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Free. 1900 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-788-9069. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



MEREDITH HANAFI

Step Afrika! spins traditional moves into compelling theater.

HALLOWEEN

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE HALLOWEEN BAR CRAWL

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

While trick-or-treating is a blast if you're under 13, grownups tend to seek out other thrills on Halloween. For this bar crawl, the treats will be pints, and you won't even have to walk through the neighborhood to find them. This Saturday, Bitter Minnesota Brewery Tours will be sending two shuttles out into the dark night, taking buzzed costumed revelers to various Northeast pubs and distilleries. Stops include 612Brew, Bauhaus Brew Labs, Dangerous Man, Fair State, NorthGate Brewing, Sociable Cider Werks, and Wander North Distillery. Stay in one or two spots, or explore them all. While your Uber home won't be free, your shuttle ride tonight will be (though it's always nice to tip your driver). 21+. 8 p.m. to midnight. Free. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

BEER/HALLOWEEN

LAKE MONSTER HALLOWEEN BASH

LAKE MONSTER BREWING COMPANY

This Saturday, Lake Monster's taproom is shutting down for a private party that features all-you-can-drink beer from the brewery, including the spookily named Empty Rowboat (an IPA), Calhoun Claw (a pilsner), Murmur (a milk stout), and Last Fathom (a dark lager). DJ Epic Bass will spin tunes to add to the spirited atmosphere, and there will be prize drawings and a costume contest. It's bottomless beer and Halloween fun, all set in the historic former railway. 21+. 7 p.m. to midnight. \$39. 550 Vandalia St., #160, St. Paul; 612-964-6288. —LOREN GREEN

DANCE

STEP AFRIKA!

ORDWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The art of stepping began as a ritual for entrance into black fraternities and sororities. This collaging of South African gumboot, traditional West African dance, and lots of African-American influences (including moves by R&B groups like the Temptations) certainly beats most fraternity initiations. Using the body as an instrument, steppers slap, stomp, and roll out elements of breakdance, Afro-Caribbean, tap, and more into a rousing, rhythmically complex tapestry. The visionary company Step Afrika! makes the form theatrical in its production of *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence*, a piece that focuses on Lawrence's paintings of the Great Migration from the South to the North in the 1920s. 7:30 p.m. \$19-\$39. 345 Washington St., St. Paul; 651-224-4222. —LINDA SHAPIRO

BEER/HALLOWEEN

HOPPY HALLOWEEN

CLUBHOUSE JÄGER

Those who missed Surly Darkness Day a few weeks ago, fret not: The delicious, elusive brew will be served at this beer-fueled Halloween party at Clubhouse Jäger. In addition to the coveted 2016 Russian imperial ale, bartenders will also be pouring Damien, a dark beer made from Darkness remnants; 10, a pale ale; and Furious Black. DJ Nune is Lamar Harris will be spinning spooky tunes, while \$150 gift cards will be handed out for the best costumes of the night. 21+. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$5. 923 Washington Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-332-2686. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

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SUNDAY 10.30

ART/MUSEUM

MARTIN LUTHER: ART AND THE REFORMATION

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

It makes sense that a museum in Minnesota, a state known for its large protestant — particularly Lutheran — population, would host the first major exhibition in the U.S. to survey the impact of the Protestant Reformation

through major works of art. The Minneapolis Institute of Art marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* with "Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation," a show exploring the movement's influence on the art world. Featuring paintings, sculptures, gold, textiles, and works on paper, as well as Luther's personal possessions, the exhibit highlights his belief that art could be used as a tool for worship, teaching, and

propaganda. Organized in partnership with four German institutions, the show includes works that have never before left Germany, offering a fresh look at Luther and the enormous impact the movement had on European culture and spirituality. Archaeological finds from 2004 and 2005 excavations uncovering the household goods of Luther and his family from his boyhood homes in the towns of Eisleben and Mansfeld, as well as his house in Wittenberg, will also be shared. \$20. 2400 Third Ave. S.,

Minneapolis; 612-870-3000. **Through January 15, 2017** —SHEILA REGAN

MONDAY 10.31

HALLOWEEN

HALLOWEEN PARTY AND COSTUME CONTEST

FIRST AVENUE & 7TH ST ENTRY

While many are now nursing Halloween hangovers and picking the glitter out of their hair, you're still going strong. Or perhaps you worked over the weekend, and now you have a night to party on the actual holiday. Whatever your reason for going out tonight, this celebration at First Avenue is a sure thing. There will be plenty of awesome getups, as folks tend to deck themselves out full stop. Past costumes have included giant toilets, Tetris puzzle pieces, and glowing spacemen. Thousands of dollars in prizes will be given away for the best looks. Host Ian Rans will keep things moving as DJs Mike 2600, Espada, Smitty, and others spin tunes throughout the night in the Mainroom and 7th St. Entry. 18+. 7:30 p.m. to midnight. \$10-\$15/\$20 at the door. 701 N. First Ave., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

TUESDAY 11.1

DANCE

JÉRÔME BEL: BOOKEND FESTIVAL

WALKER ART CENTER

French performance artist Jérôme Bel is happily becoming a fixture at Walker Art Center. He returns for the fifth time for Bookend Festival with performances, talks, and a film screening. The festival begins with Bel's 2015 *GALA*, a spectacle that celebrates the joy of all moving bodies and the diversity of Minnesota's community. Around 20 local amateurs of varying ages, body types, and physical abilities will dance their hearts out. His eponymous 1995 work, *Jérôme Bel*, treats the body as a minimalist manifesto, employing spare movement, nudity, and shadow to deconstruct the theatrics of dance. By stripping the body down to what he terms a "zero degree of literature," he avoids stereotypes of the erotic or perfectly muscled form. There is also a talk with Walker's performing arts curator Philip Bither that includes a screening of Bel's short film on classical corps de ballet dancer Véronique Doisneau. 8 p.m. \$22; \$40 both shows. 1750 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. **Through November 4** —LINDA SHAPIRO

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Until the Hunter Out 11/4



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MESHUGGAH
Violent Sleep of Reason
(10/29 Mill City Nights)



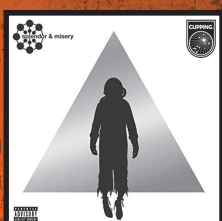
ELLE KING
Love Stuff
(10/29 State Theatre)



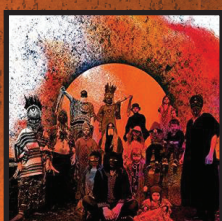
LVL UP
Return to Love



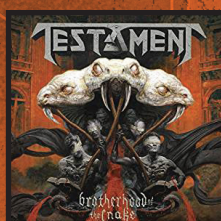
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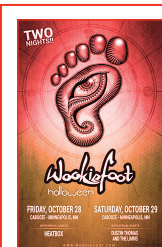
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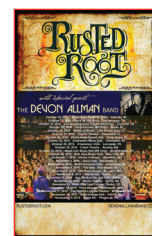
**HALLOWEEN
BASH FEAT. HEAD
FOR THE HILLS**
w/ THE HENHOUSE
PROWLERS
OCT. 31



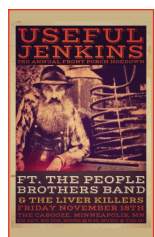
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A MANY-TENTACLED THING

The Handmaiden beguiles and disturbs



Kim Min-hee as the captive Hideko

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON STUDIOS / MAGNOLIA PICTURES

BY MICHAEL NORDINE

In the hidden-away reading room of a gothic estate, well-dressed men sit in rapt attention as a woman recites erotica.

Their quarters are guarded by a snake sculpture, its fangs bared as if to ward off anyone unworthy of the carnal knowledge within. Their hush-hush gathering has the feel of a secret society. Tonight's story is of the sadomasochistic variety — “As I felt the duke approach from behind, a rope slithered around my neck” — and the young woman wraps her gloved hands around her own neck for effect as the story nears its climax.

This moment comes more than an hour into Park Chan-wook's sensuous and absorbing *The Handmaiden*, by which time most of us watching will think we have a firm grasp on what's at work in this beguiling film. Then it sheds its skin and takes on a new form.

Hideko (Kim Min-hee) is as captive as her audience while performing this reading at the behest of her domineering uncle (Cho Jin-woong). As a wooden dummy descends from the ceiling so she can demonstrate one of the story's more provocative techniques, we can sense the gears turning in the mind of one listener in particular: the Count (Ha Jung-woo).

Matters of control have long factored into Park's work, and his latest takes that fixation to an almost self-reflective level; the very act of watching this movie feels like an exercise in power dynamics. The meticulous, vengeance-inclined filmmaker's adaptation of Sarah Waters' 2002 novel *Fingersmith* is constantly changing form.

The story begins in Japanese-occupied Korea circa the 1930s, where we're first introduced to the Count's plan. He wants to seduce Hideko, the orphan heir to vast riches, and ship her off to the madhouse

as soon as he's secured her inheritance. To do so, he sends the young thief Sook-hee (Kim Tae-ri) to make Hideko more susceptible to his wiles. This would-be mark is beautiful and detached, secluded in her chambers like Sofia Coppola's vision of Marie Antoinette; in her fragile beauty she seems almost unknowable.

To say much more about what transpires would be a disservice to the movie's immense narrative pleasures, but know that pawns, kings, and queens are constantly switching place and few pieces end up where you expect them. *The Handmaiden* is divided into three sections, with each new movement offering glimpses of earlier events from new perspectives. (The last of these sections is both the shortest and least essential, lingering for so long on certain moments that their effect is almost lessened.)

What's most amazing is that, despite all the craven plotting, graphic sex,

THE HANDMAIDEN

directed by Park Chan-wook
opens Friday, Lagoon Cinema

and even a brief foray into torture, *The Handmaiden* stays in the mind primarily as a deeply involving romance. Its two main lovers are the kind you root for even and especially when they seem star-crossed. With a feminist bent and endless visual ingenuity, Park makes sights like a hanged woman in a blossoming cherry tree as ravishing as they are disturbing.

The Handmaiden has the pace and scope of a binge-worthy miniseries, the sumptuous production design of an autumnal prestige picture, and lurid, off-kilter details that only an auteur like Park could dream up. At times, to watch it is to feel as though you've wandered into that reading room and seen something you shouldn't have — not that you'll want to look away. 

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DEER FRIENDS

Fragile masculinity becomes a dance number at Camp



COURTESY OF ACTORS THEATER

BY JAY GABLER

There are plenty of plays for people who are into Greek tragedy, or Victorian drama, or feuding aristocrats. Why not write a musical for people who want to hear earthy odes to beer, hunting, farting, wives who clip too many damn coupons, and men who never got any action because their girlfriends were obviously lesbians?

Why not, indeed. Playwright Gene Jurek and composer Doug Spartz couldn't come up with a good answer to that question, and so we have *Deer Camp: The Musical*. It's now playing at Camp Bar, which happens to be a gay bar — "Not that there's anything wrong with that!" as one character says about his ex-girlfriend who later came out.

The four dudes onstage — ringleader Doogski (Tony Papenfuss), Vietnam vet Diesel (Ross Young), mama's boy Digger (Paul Somers), and dumb-ass Moose (Tim Dybevik) — are in crisis because their wives have realized that, in all their years of "deer hunting," they've never actually fired a shot. If they don't bring

back a buck this time, their deer-camp days are numbered.

What, exactly, do they do in that cabin instead of hunting? Why, drink beer, of course! What the actors are actually slamming onstage are cans of LaCroix covered in Leinenkugel's wrappers, and you start to wonder whether pamplemousse sparkling water is actually what the characters are consuming. Is this all some kind of elaborate rehab?

Another title for the show could have been *White Male Fragility: The Musical*. Shambling song-and-dance numbers, set to prerecorded music, add up to a sort of Bill of Rights claimed by the fractious foursome. They want to drink. They want to be married, but they don't want to actually see their wives; they'd prefer to fantasize about Sarah Palin and Ann-Margret. They want to pass gas freely.

The show ostensibly parodies rural male culture (there's a song about the wonders of the wild, with dismissive references to inner cities that stop just shy of Trump's "living in hell"), but someone forgot to include the wink. When Digger sings about his ex, we get the sense we're supposed

DEER CAMP: THE MUSICAL

Camp Bar
490 N. Robert St., St. Paul
800-838-3006; Through November 13

to laugh a little at him and a lot at the short-haired phy-ed major he's well rid of. There's no vindication for the wives whose bingo obsession is savagely mocked.

The revelation that Moose's wife is being entertained by Chippendales occasions a full-on burlesque, but one completely different in tone from *The Full Monty*, which ultimately celebrates confidence. In contrast, the *Deer Camp* striptease is a pageant of insecurity — the guys won't even take their pants off. The show is so completely contrary to body-positivity that one guy even gets in a fat joke about, I kid you not, the late Mama Cass.

To all appearances, though, the packed opening-night audience loved *Deer Camp*. In the front row, a man wearing a blaze-orange hunting cap shared an affectionate kiss with a woman wearing a deer-tail hat. Not that there's anything wrong with that. **C+**

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HALLOWEEN 2016

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BRIT'S HALLOWEEN AND BIRTHDAY BASH

Featuring live music from Abba-Solutely Fab and Kinda Kinky, with drink specials and costume party. Oct 29 7:30 p.m., free. Brit's Pub & Eating Establishment, 1110 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-3908.

FIRST AVENUE'S HALLOWEEN PARTY AND COSTUME CONTEST

Featuring DJs Cloud, Greenery, Espada, Mike 2600, Smitty, and Roy Freedom, with Ness Nite and Holidae performing in the 7th St. Entry. Oct 31 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. First Avenue, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN; 612-338-8388.

HALLOWEEN MASQUERADE BALL

Featuring Halloween decorations, visuals, DJ, and costumes. Oct 29 9 p.m. \$20. Ground Zero Nightclub, 15 4th St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-378-5115.

HAUNTED BASEMENT X

More info at www.soapfactory.org/haunted-basement. 18+. Wed., Thu., and Sun. 6-10 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. 6-11 p.m.; Oct. 31 6 p.m.-12 a.m. \$25-\$27. The Soap Factory, 514 2nd St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-623-9176.

NORTHEAST HALLOWEEN CRAWL

Shuttle tour to taprooms throughout northeast Minneapolis. Oct. 29 8 p.m., free. Bauhaus Brew Labs, 1315 Tyler St. NE, Minneapolis, MN.

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Hundreds of hand-carved pumpkins along a walking path. More info at www.pumpkinnights.com. Fri. and Sat. 6:30 p.m.-12 a.m.; Wed. and Thu., Mon. 6:30-10:30 p.m. \$20; \$16 kids 4-12. Minnesota State Fairgrounds, 1265 Snelling Ave., St. Paul; 651-288-4400.

STRANGE THINGS: A HALLOWEEN PARTY

Costume party, presented by Flip Phone and Blowtorch, with music by DJ Fancy Restaurant, DJ Shannon Blowtorch, and Sophia Eris. Oct 28, 9 p.m. \$10-\$12. Mill City Nights, 111 N. 5th St., Minneapolis; 612-333-3422.

TERRORFEST 2016

Three-night festival featuring live music on six stages, haunted cinema, and costume contest. Music by Savoy, Cookie Monsta, and 3Lau. Oct 28-29, Oct. 31. \$35 single day; \$75 3-day pass. Skyway Theatre, 711 Hennepin Ave., 2nd floor, Minneapolis; 612-333-6100.

TRAIL OF TERROR

Featuring haunted houses, bar crawls, zombie runs, and more. Fri. and Sat. 7-11 p.m.; Sun. 7-10 p.m. \$20/\$25 at the gate. Trail of Terror, 3525 145th St. W., Shakopee; 952-445-7361.

TRANSMISSION PRESENTS: HALLOWEEN 1983

'Stranger Things'-inspired costume party, with '80s-era music, and a prize for best costume. Oct 29 9 p.m. Free. Psycho Suzi's Motor Lounge, 1900 Marshall St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-788-9069.

ZOMBIE PROM

With cash prizes for King and Queen. Oct 28 9 p.m., free. Gay 90's, 408 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-333-7755.

HALLOWEEN BASH

SATURDAY, OCT. 29TH

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BORN TO SHOOT

Daniel Corrigan's new photo book documents legendary moments in Twin Cities music history

BY ERIK THOMPSON

Looking at Daniel Corrigan's photographs is like taking a time-lapse tour through four decades of the Twin Cities music scene.

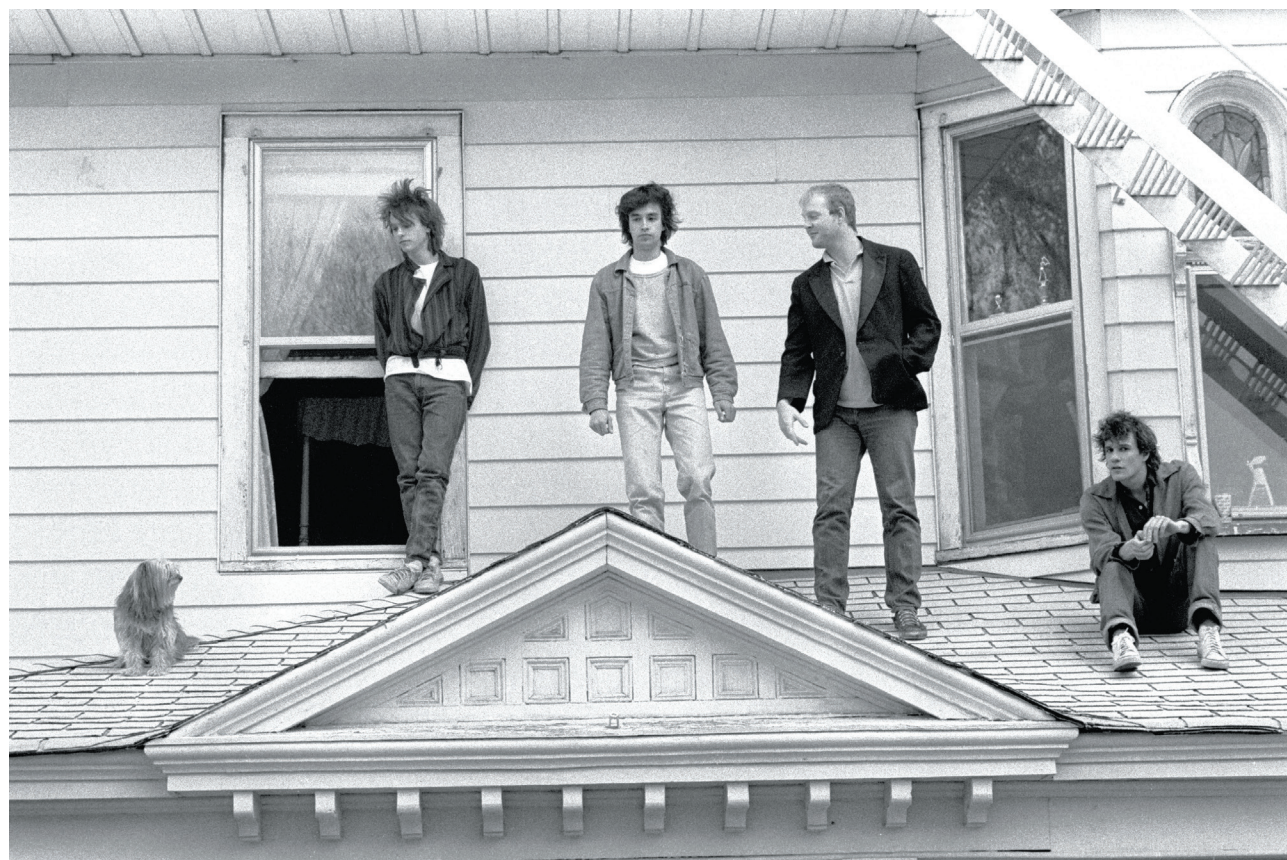
The veteran local photographer has shot hundreds of legendary bands and musicians since the early '80s. His indelible images have graced the covers of numerous record sleeves — most notably the Replacements' iconic *Let It Be* cover, taken on the roof of Tommy and Bob Stinson's house on Bryant Avenue in Minneapolis.

Now, after years spent taking pictures that illuminate the raw energy and creative potency of countless artists, it's time for Daniel Corrigan himself to be recognized. *Heyday: 35 Years of Music in Minneapolis* will be published Tuesday by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. The gorgeous volume — which will be celebrated at 7th St. Entry Friday — collects a wide array of Corrigan's best work alongside the informative text of writer Danny Sigelman.

Corrigan was born in New York City in 1958, but moved to Minnesota at the age of two. He grew up in Marine on St. Croix, and attended Stillwater High School. But Corrigan didn't get into photography until his junior year at the University of Minnesota, when he took a class as an elective to fulfil an art requirement.

"It was the darkroom that really changed everything," Corrigan reflects over coffee on a lovely fall day in northeast Minneapolis. "Doing the first print, and seeing the print come up in the developer, was seriously magic. It was like the waters parted before me. It changed everything — completely changed everything."

He honed his skills as a printer and photographer at campus newspaper the *Minnesota Daily*, and befriended the paper's arts and entertainment editor, Dave Ayres, who would eventually go on to manage the Replacements and do A&R for the band's label, Twin/Tone. That professional connection, as well as Corrigan's deep-rooted ties to downtown Minneapolis music mecca First Avenue, would help shape his entire career in photography. It also put him front and center while the local music scene flourished around him.



The Replacements on the roof Corrigan made famous

COPYRIGHT DANIEL CORRIGAN

"It's like my home," Corrigan says affectionately of First Ave, where he's worked as in-house photographer for more than 20 years. "I got the opportunity to come to any show that I wanted to shoot, and I did. Having that kind of access was really key."

Corrigan also was a primary photographer at *City Pages* for much of the '80s and '90s, typically shooting three stories a week. He even got a photo into *Sweet Potato*, the early version of what eventually became *City Pages*. He's seen the Twin Cities and its music scene change dramatically over the years, though he says he never got the sense he was capturing mythical moments in time. He was simply doing his job, and doing what he loved.

"It was a special time, because there wasn't this sort of social media, digital edge to everything," Corrigan says of the '80s scene. "The sense of community then was different than it is now. It was quainter."

That "quaint" time in the Twin Cities would definitely change the direction of modern music forever, and Corrigan routinely captured it while it was happening in front of him. His vivid photographs document early performances from the Replacements, Hüsker Dü, and Prince, as well as initial area performances by future superstars U2, R.E.M., and the Cure (to name just a few). And then there's the famous *Let It Be* cover from 1984, which remains one of the most famous photographs in Corrigan's vast catalog, as well as one of the defining images of the Minneapolis music scene itself.

"I can't 100 percent say that it was my idea to go out on the roof. But it just seems like something I would do," Corrigan says of the shoot. "I have this theory that people look different when they are in danger — that they take on certain mannerisms that are evident in the picture. I liked the enclosed space

idea, especially with these guys because they were so wiggly. Putting them someplace where they really couldn't move around a lot was kind of key to shooting them."

Throughout the book, Danny Sigelman's text does an informative job of connecting the photographs with their respective eras, as well as sharing Corrigan's insightful backstories to the pictures. The pair are old friends as well as music scene mainstays. Sigelman (along with editor Josh Leventhal) spent six months organizing Corrigan's sprawling life's work into a gorgeous volume that should resonate with fans of both music and photography.

"Working on this certainly brought back a lot of memories for me, because I think we went to a lot of the same shows," Sigelman says. "At first, I thought I could go through the photos and do the writing at the same time. But it was really hard. So, what we did to inform the stories is,

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 (jeremy ylvsaker, jt bates, josh granowski)

fri : october 28
 7pm : laura and sean's movie
 and music trivia
 10pm : hey, that's my jam: a halloween
 dance party
 with hey there handsome and slow moe

sat : october 29
 7pm : trivia mafia presents:
331 drinkin' spelling bee
 10pm : gravezig, the toxenes, the von
 tramps and dj lazer bob

sun : october 30
 3pm : corpse reviver (music from the
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 8pm : trivia mafia

mon : october 31
 8pm : the roe family singers
 10pm : doug otto and friends

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once we started narrowing down some of the photos, I started asking Dan to tell me stories about the bands. Or certain photos that popped out that were really interesting, I'd ask him, "What were you guys doing that day?"

And Corrigan is far from done photographing memorable musical moments in the Twin Cities. He still shoots six shows a month at First Avenue, in addition to working as a stage hand for the club. Music

and photography are a big part of who he is, and he remains tightly connected to a scene that wouldn't look the same without him and his work. Corrigan's photographs allow us to relive moments we were lucky enough to witness, or teleport others there for the first time.

"This has reinforced to me just how lucky I am," Corrigan admits. "And I still think that every day. I'm the luckiest man in the world." **CF**

CRITICS' PICKS

SCHOOLBOY Q

MYTH, THURSDAY 10.27

Los Angeles' Schoolboy Q may be a gangster rapper in a few traditional ways. But ever since he broke through with 2012's *Habits & Contradictions*, he's challenged stereotypical notions of what "gangster rappers" do. He has hits — "Collard Greens," "Man of the Year," "Studio," and "That Part" among them — but it's the Black Hippy/TDE member's albums that best showcase his knack for conceptual storytelling (particularly tales of L.A. gang culture) and adventurous beat selection (he's rapped over everything from thick G-funk to space-trap). His latest, the dark and dense *Blank Face LP*, is widely being hailed as his best album yet, and it features some of the best collaborations of his career. There's Kanye on second single "That Part," Kendrick Lamar on the cinematic "By Any Means," Vince Staples on the thunderous "Ride Out," and E-40 on the hypnotic "Dope Dealer." Brooklyn prodigy and boom-bap revivalist Joey Bada\$\$ opens. *All ages. 7 p.m. \$17-\$147. 3090 Southlawn Dr., St. Paul; 651-779-6984. —MICHAEL MADDEN*

ZULUZULUU'S
ASTRAL BEAT SERIES

ICEHOUSE, THURSDAY 10.27

One of the most exciting groups in the Twin Cities right now, ZULUZULUU is a collaboration of established solo artists. The band — who, as they told City Pages earlier this year, "try to focus our music towards empowerment, being socially conscious, and being aware of inequities and speaking out" — generated buzz with live shows before finally releasing their debut album, June's *What's the Price?* While their sound is not easily categorized, they do warrant comparisons to other inventive artists — George Clinton's groundbreaking funk, Prince & Co.'s Minneapolis Sound, and Shabazz Palaces' abstract rap. Album highlights include the band's cover of Syreeta's Stevie Wonder-penned "Black Maybe" and the especially funky "Fades." Thursday marks the start of the group's month-long Astral Beat series at Icehouse, which is slated to feature special guests and be "an exploration of sonic innovations" with "new dimensions of sound each week." Proper-T serves as the featured ZULUZULUU member for the first show, to be followed by MMYKK, Greg

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MUSIC CRITICS' PICKS



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BLEACHED SLANG (BEACH SLANG AND BLEACHED)

TRIPLE ROCK SOCIAL CLUB, FRIDAY 10.28 Philadelphia band Beach Slang — who recently parted ways with guitarist Ruben Gallego in light of sexual assault allegations against him — had to change their approach to their current tour, turning their full-band show into an acoustic solo set by singer/guitarist James Alex. A solo set might not be ideal, considering the band's signature sound, which has plenty of Replacements in its cathartic DNA and is figuratively and literally electric. Fortunately, Alex's songs are just straightforward enough to hold up well in an acoustic setting, not to mention that tunes like “We Are Nothing” and “Too Late to Die Young” are actually acoustic to begin with. He'll be joined by Los Angeles band Bleached, who broke through with their 2011 song “Think of You” and released their latest album, *Welcome the Worms*, in April. On both that album and 2013's *Ride Your Heart*, they've excelled in a kind of fuzzy pop-punk that's distinctly native to the West Coast, with an ever-present influence drawn from '60s girl groups like the Shangri-Las. Hunny also performs. 18+. 8:30 p.m. \$16. 629 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-333-7399. —MICHAEL MADDEN

THE BLIND SHAKE

7TH ST. ENTRY, SATURDAY 10.29 Thunderous and prolific Twin Cities surf-rock faves the Blind Shake are back with a new album, last week's *Celebrate Your Worth*. On it, brothers Jim and Mike Blaha maintain their scorched-earth intensity over the nine songs dropped via Memphis indie label Goner Records (Jay Reatard, King

Khan, Ty Segall). Single “Broken Racehorse” chugs along with eerie psychedelics accented by blasts of noise-rock guitar, while “I Shot All the Birds” confesses to crimes against winged beasts with towering walls of fuzz and squiggly riffs. Saturday's release party will be drummer Dave Roper's last show, as he's leaving TBS to focus on being a new dad while the group springboards into a month-long U.S. tour. The Blaha bros promise his replacement, “young buck” Karl Tebeest, will bring long locks to the notably bald band. Fury Things and Tongue Party open. 21+. 8 p.m. \$8-\$10. 701 First Ave. N.; 612-338-8388. —JAY BOLLER

THE STAVES

FITZGERALD THEATER, TUESDAY 11.1 November is a pretty lean month for big-name shows, but that doesn't mean you can't catch a band on the rise. The Staves are a British trio that've charmed everyone from Tom Jones to Bon Iver into collaborations. Now, after attention-grabbing gigs opening for Nathaniel Rateliff and Florence and the Machine, the Staveley-Taylor sisters are becoming a sensation in their own right. The U.K. folkies are heading out on a short Midwestern headlining tour, which kicks off in St. Paul. There's a lot to love on their recent Justin Vernon-produced LP, *If I Was*, from the meditative heartbreak of “No Me, No You, No More” to the exasperated farewell of “Damn It All.” The album is a departure from the Staves' previous records in that it demonstrates rawness and vulnerability without ever losing its empowerment. You'll leave the Fitz puffy-eyed and stronger than ever. Afterward, the Staves will follow up with five straight dates in friendly Wisconsin, including three sold-out shows in Vernon's hometown of Eau Claire. 8 p.m. \$22-\$47. 10 E. Exchange St., St. Paul; 651-290-1200. —JERARD FAGERBERG

Seven Nights

Why can't my wife understand that I need sex every day?



Dan Savage

I love my wife, but I have a lot of resentment, disappointment, and insecurity over our sex life. After four years of marriage, huge angst remains that I have yet to get a handle on. Right now, with kids and our busy lives, she's content with sex once a week or so, and I need relief pretty much every night to help with my insomnia. What's more, I really don't enjoy porn at all, but if we aren't having intercourse, there's pretty much no other way for me to get off. Blame it on my fundamentalist evangelical upbringing, but I fear my porn use becoming an addiction. It makes me feel dirty. I would love a solution to this problem that doesn't involve me jerking off in a dark room by a computer screen after my wife falls asleep every night. All I want to do is feel close to my wife, orgasm, and sleep. I think she does sincerely care and wants to help me, but is just so tired and busy with her career and our kids. And yes, I have talked and fought with her countless times. In weaker moments, I'll admit I have also guilted her for her more "active" sexual past (with prior boyfriends) and for her current "neglect," which I know is unfair and unhelpful. I just don't know what to do.

WHEN ORGASMS ENABLE SLEEP

You've been married four years, you have more than one child, you both work—and if you divide household labor like most couples, WOES, your wife is doing more/most of the cooking, cleaning, and child care. But even if you were childless, living in a hotel suite with daily maid service, eating only room service, and throwing your underpants out the window after one wearing, WOES, it would still be unreasonable to expect PIV intercourse every night of the week.

Frankly, WOES, once-a-week PIV is more sex than most young straight dads are getting. And if you're demanding PIV from your wife as a sleep aid—"ask your doctor if Clambien is right for you"—it's a miracle you're getting any sex at all. And the limited options you cite—it's

either PIV with the wife or masturbation in front of the computer—aren't doing you any favors.

Consider PIV from your wife's perspective: Her husband fucks, comes, and falls asleep. She lies there for a while afterward, tingling, and may have to go to the bathroom once or twice. The PIV that puts her husband to sleep after a long day? It puts her sleep off. And if she wanted to get it over with quickly—because she was exhausted—there wasn't much foreplay, which means she probably wasn't fully lubricated (uncomfortable) and most likely didn't come (unfair). That's a recipe for resentment, WOES, and resentment kills desire. (Or maybe you should think of it this way: If your ass got fucked every time you said yes to sex, WOES, you wouldn't say yes to sex seven nights a week.)

If you expanded your definition of sex, WOES, if your options weren't PIV or nothing, you might not have to masturbate six nights a week. Because if your definition of sex included oral (his and hers), mutual masturbation, and frottage—and if these weren't consolation prizes you settled for, but sex you were enthusiastic about—your wife might say yes to sex more often.

Still, you're never going to get it seven nights a week. So make the most of the PIV you're getting, broaden your definition of sex and get another night or two of sex in per week, and enjoy porn without guilt the rest of the week. And if you're concerned about the amount of porn you're watching, try this trick: Lie on the couch or the floor or the guest bed, stroke your cock (even if it's soft), and think dirty thoughts. Your cock will get hard, I promise, and you'll get off. It's how most people masturbated before the internet came and ruined everything, WOES, and it still works.

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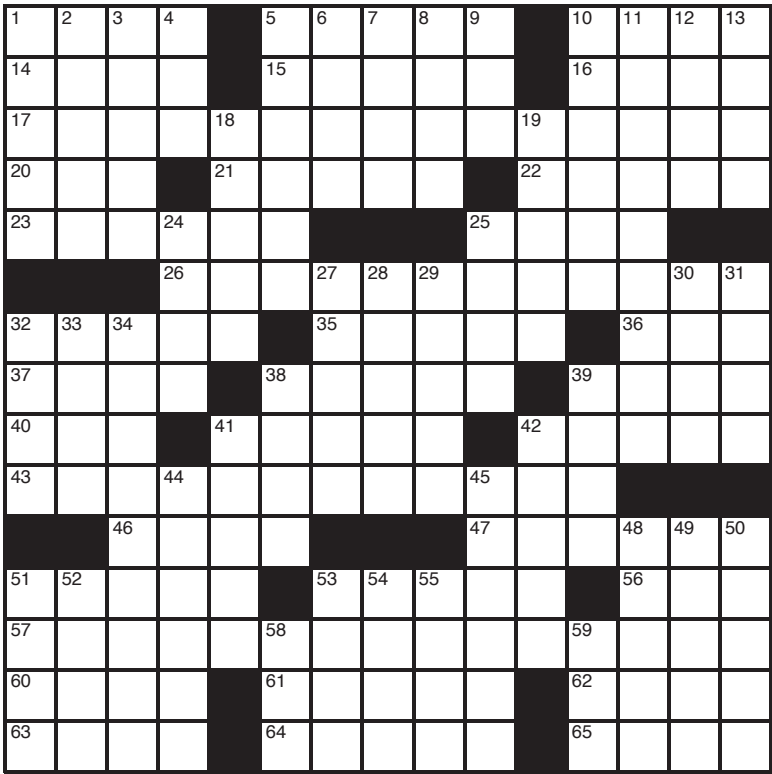
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Across

- 1 The basics
5 Tomato dropping on the floor sound
10 Say you'll be going to the party
14 Zippo
15 Italian luxury fashion house
16 One to grow on?
17 London mayor's phantom?
20 Polish off
21 Strongly pushed
22 Credit line, e.g.
23 Area in front of an ice hockey goal
25 Just kinda meh
26 Pull a banshee?
32 Supremely confident
35 Small salmon
36 Pakistan president after Chaudhry
37 Laughing syllables
38 Pluckiness
39 Some queens
40 4 x 4, briefly
41 Fiery Cheeseburger restaurant
42 Political satirist Will
43 Apparition will start wooing?
46 Pitcher Syndergaard
47 Watched, as the kids
51 Skiing hill

- 53 ____ bath
56 Luna Thurman's mom
57 Poltergeist's gizmo that's au currant?
60 Junior in the NFL Hall of Fame
61 Get rid of
62 Old character
63 Mash down
64 "We'll deal with this later"
65 "New Girl" girl

Down

- 1 Central Mexican tribe
2 Joy on "The View"
3 Zeus's island birthplace
4 Farm mom
5 One offering clemency
6 Fuddy-duddy
7 Behind the times
8 Adderall treats it
9 Chinese belief
10 Jaunty
11 Networking type
12 True, in Tours
13 ____ up (confined)
18 Needing some practice
19 Hits with a whip
24 Posits
25 Sneak, e.g.
27 Cheap prefix
28 Poisonous
29 Hispanic dude
30 180s
31 Have some legs

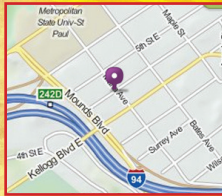
- 32 Pound, as a beer
33 Words on the Bible
34 One-piece Chinese dress
38 The ____ Radio Hour (storytelling show)
39 Keister
41 Lacking new ideas
42 Tense state
44 Improve, as an auto engine
45 Linguist's topics
48 Bach piece
49 Bad signs
50 Freelancer's quotes
51 Thin fog
52 First subtopic
53 Hot guy
54 Actress Hatcher
55 Proof words
58 One working with checks and balances?
59 Dunking legend, for short

Last Week's Answer

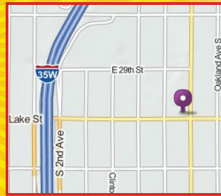


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Dated: October 21, 2016
Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
The Wirbicki Law Group LLC, Chris Irk, Attorneys for
Mortgagee/Mortgage Assignee

Christopher J. Motz
MN Bar No. 0395547
The Wirbicki Law Group LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
33 W. Monroe St.
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Chicago, IL 60603
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For devotees of Caffrey's, the news is less about a favorite sandwich shop reopening, and far more about a sense of order being restored to the corner of Uptown's Lake and Lyndale.

TO READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE THIS EXCERPT IS FROM, VISIT:
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The 5 most transporting restaurant interiors in Minneapolis

More often than not, we choose a restaurant based on a craving. But a good restaurateur knows food is only half the battle. Restaurants, the good ones anyway, are stages, arenas to escape the dodgy clatter of real life, if only for two hours. Here are five local restaurants that serve as mini-vacations, for little more than the price of a plate.

ST. GENEVIEVE

France exists in all of our imaginations, even if we've never been. It's the same way you know New York should have guys shouting out of brownstone windows, dirty water hot dog stands, and subway screech. With little more than a carved, ivory-esque bar, patina-edged mirrors, and soft light, St. Genevieve screams "Paris!" They've done it with the smallest touches, and exactly zero treacle. You won't find a single Eiffel Tower. The menu follows suit with French omelets, Champagne flutes, and escargots exactly the way the French might do them: with understatement and confidence. (Also see sister restaurant Tilia, which evokes an old-timey American train car, even if you've never ridden in one.)

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How many hallowed 110-year-old rooms can you relax in for the cost of a lowball? So very many of our most historic bars and restaurants have gone the way of the dinosaur these past few years. Monte Carlo seems to exist as an untouchable exception, where the servers pad around in orthopedic shoes and smart black dresses from the uniform store, and not Forever 21. The windowless room is a dark crucible of copper bar, reds and golds, and a wall of booze that inspires you to order something neat, not craft. If you're looking for something gluten free, your options are Filet Mignon or New York Strip.

219 3rd Ave. N., Minneapolis
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We ardently follow chefs for their talents on the plate, so why is it that so few dining rooms seem to accommodate for their creativity? The Travailians are so unlike other chefs, they've got their own pet name for their legions of followers. So it would only do to have a room that speaks to their freaky humor, the somewhat disturbing, cacophonous inner mind of a chef. What does that look like? A booming sound system, lots of wide open space punctuated by an overabundance of stuffed animals, shag carpet, chalkboards, guys dressed in chicken suits. The line between kitchen and dining room blurs in a foggy mashup of carnival and your stoner brother's basement bedroom. It works. It's fun. Prepare to be pleasantly overwhelmed.

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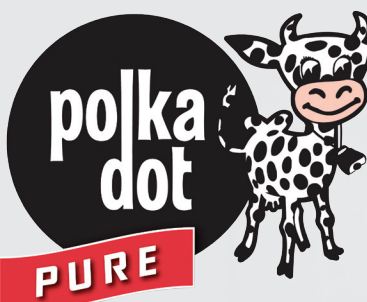
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VOLSTEAD'S EMPORIUM

If you can get in (and it's easier to get in now that the hype has subsided), Volstead's Emporium is worth the extra trouble of hiking through a sketchy alley, beyond a steely door with a peep-hole, and past a burly bouncer (he's actually more sugar than brawn). In the bowels of the street-level S&M store (is this starting to sound like we live in a real city, or what?) a murky speakeasy awaits, with privacy booths where velvet curtains can drop, and you and your date can do what inspires you. Don't worry—servers pop out of windows at other side, Jambi the Genie style, at your service with Sazerac in hand. While prohibition-era drinking culture has had its day, threatening to curdle like some old milk, Volstead's still manages to charm. The utter showmanship in the detail seems designed by nothing short of a stage designer, down to the fringes on the lampshades. A dreamy, reclining sliver of a moon on the wall behind the band smiles in languor, encouraging the night to never end.

711 W. Lake St., Minneapolis

—MECCA BOS

Three St. Paul spots trade in their finery for more casual digs and menus

So, what's St. Paul's culinary world got on its collective mind this autumn? Booze! And lots of stuff that goes good with drinkin'. Three St. Paul spots are turning over their white tablecloths for more bar space, and swapping their frou frou food for burgers, fried fish, and other comfort faves.

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designed to become a high-end meat temple for a new generation. Alan Bergo was chef, arriving after many years under Heartland's Lenny Russo. He kept an eye toward pairing behemoth cuts of Piedmontese beef with locally foraged items culled from our "own backyard." What followed was a boondoggle of epic proportions, with across-the-board execution problems from almost every vantage point. They were wise to shutter.

But it appears they're not defeated. Salt Cellar is rising again, this time as the more casual Fitzgerald's. It's just too tempting not to evoke the boozy author in this neighborhood, and the place aims to live up to its name as a boozy neighborhood bar. They'll serve craft cocktails, local beer, and Hamm's on tap, with food that is the antithesis of special occasion fare—think nachos, wings, burgers and pizza.

Opens mid-October

173 N. Western Ave., St. Paul
651-219-4013

128 CAFE IS NOW STEWART'S

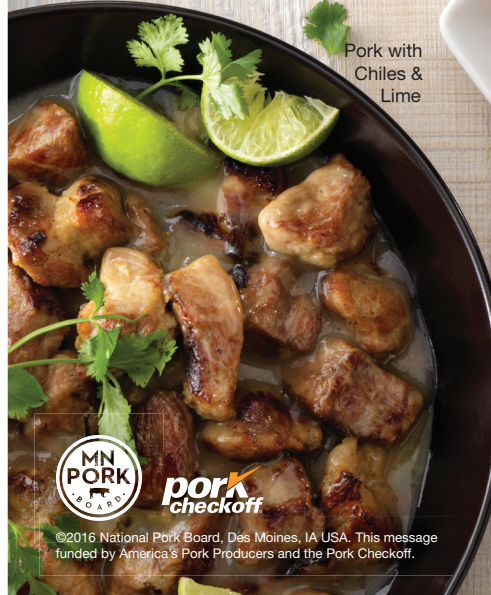
128 Cafe was always one of the best kept secrets of St. Paul's Cleveland Avenue neighborhood. An underground indie bistro with both white tablecloths and barbecue ribs, it fit the bill for lots of occasions.

The owners had planned a quick refresh, but when they started digging, they discovered artifacts from the previous iteration of the place, Stewart's, a more casual neighborhood bar. They decided to go with a full-on name change. It just felt right.

So 128 is now Stewart's, and you can expect a drinks-forward place (sensing a theme?) that maintains an eclectic menu, though the cooking got a refresh too. Highlights include

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 ►

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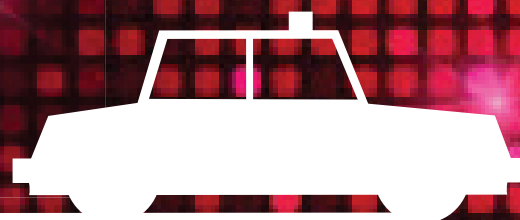
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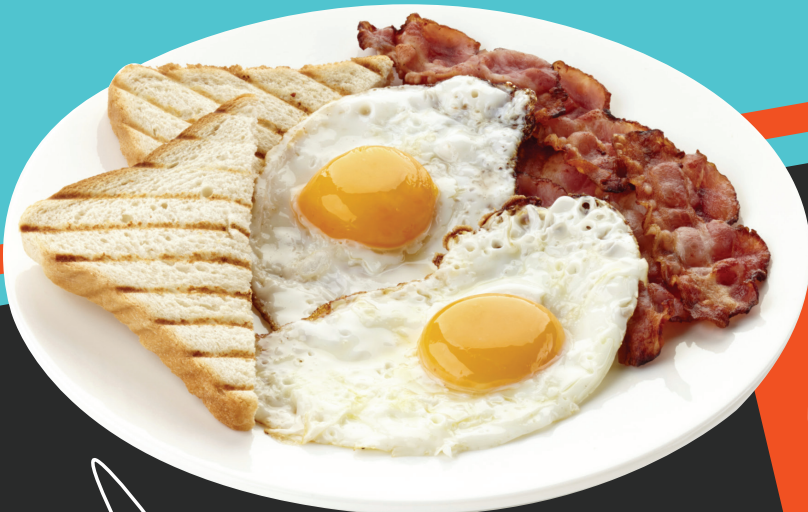
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SCUSI WILL BE BOTTLE ROCKET

Scusi, the Italian restaurant with wine on tap that operated for several years in the original Heartland space on St. Clair Avenue, is jumping in the old phone booth transformer and emerging with a—you guessed it—boozier outlook.

A full bar, a more relaxed vibe, and more “familiar dishes” will be the hallmarks of Bottle Rocket. No menu specifics yet, but they’re shooting for a Thanksgiving-ish opening.

1806 St. Clair Ave., St. Paul

651-690-2102

—MECCA BOS

This book club really is all about the wine

There’s a standing joke about book clubs, that they exist mainly as an excuse for members to get together and drink wine. Perhaps attendees talk about the book of the month if enough people have read it—but mostly they just drink wine.

Sound familiar? Then have we got a book club for you.

Gretchen Skedsvold, co-owner of Henry & Son, the independent wine shop in the Harrison neighborhood of Minneapolis (near International Market Square), is hosting a book club where wine is the main attraction by design.

“Each month we’ll read a book about wine regions, wine lovers, wine history, and other wine-related subjects and taste a few of the wines



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mentioned in the book," she says.

The inaugural meeting was September 13, kicking off with *Adventures on the Wine Route* by Kermit Lynch, an influential American wine importer and winemaker. The book recounts his travels through the wine regions of France, where he spends several months each year searching out great wines and talented winemakers.

"It seemed like an appropriate book to start with, since he's wandering around France in the late summer," says Skedsvold.

For October, the group tackled *Making Sense of Wine*, a crash course on wine by Matt Kramer.

Skedsvold says she originally thought about putting together a book club for industry professionals, but customers were so enthusiastic about the idea that she decided to structure it for the general public instead.

"Learning about the history and the story behind wines and winemakers gives a new perspective on the subject, and learning about wine via a memoir is more fun and less intimidating than memorizing grape varietals," says Skedsvold.

The book club will meet on the second Tuesday of every month. You can register by calling the store, but walk-ins are welcome, too. Better start reading!

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-MARY JO RASMUSSEN

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A year removed from a caramel apple controversy, the store also known as the Big Yellow Barn is open seasonally from May to November. But autumn feels like the best time to visit, for the cornucopia (fall also gives us excuse to use the word "cornucopia") of gourds, decorative corn, and pumpkins. They've got them before anyone else seems to have them. It's like instant autumn, before a single maple leaf has gone crimson.

Operating as Jim's Apple Farm until 2005, the family-owned orchard came to an important realization: Apples are dandy but candy is quicker.

Sensory overload is a succinct way to describe what you'll find within: all the colors of the rainbow and lots of others; perambulating families to rival those at the State Fair; meticulously categorized candy.

Filed under Theater Box Candy are all your favorites from the glass case at the cinema (your days of paying \$16 for a box of Raisinetes at the movies are over). Root beer comes in 151 (to be exact—the number grows each year) varieties. Salt water taffy is available in every possible flavor, including buttered popcorn and eggnog. There's stuff from the Netherlands (stroopenwaffles for days), stuff from all over Asia (Hello Kitties with candy mustaches), and all the candy cigarettes you can smoke.

Going on like this would be tempting, almost as tempting as getting

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all the things. We narrowly escaped under the 25 dollar mark after spending an hour there. The damage could have been much worse, considering that they also have a pie shop, where the owner's elderly father presides over handmade apple pies, and a comprehensive soda selection, potentially the largest in the state, which includes the likes of buffalo chicken and sweet corn flavors. Is this necessary? Is this wise? Only you can know, and there is only one way to find out.

Candy shaped like poop? Ketchup-flavored potato chips? Sriracha gumballs? Countless unidentifiable items in countless languages? A yard of gumballs? What are your limits? Test them at the Big Yellow Barn.

Don't forget to grab a butternut squash on your way out. The veggies are on the honor system, so say what you plan to grab (because really, who is going to steal a gourd while hefting five pounds of candy?) then settle up.

It's cash only. There's no website or phone number, and you'll carry your stuff away in a plain paper bag. All the glory awaits as you drive away, autumn air shooting through the car windows, cherry gumdrops sticking to your molars.

Minnesota's Largest Candy Store/
Big Yellow Barn
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—MECCA BOS

6 local dishes that are textbook perfect

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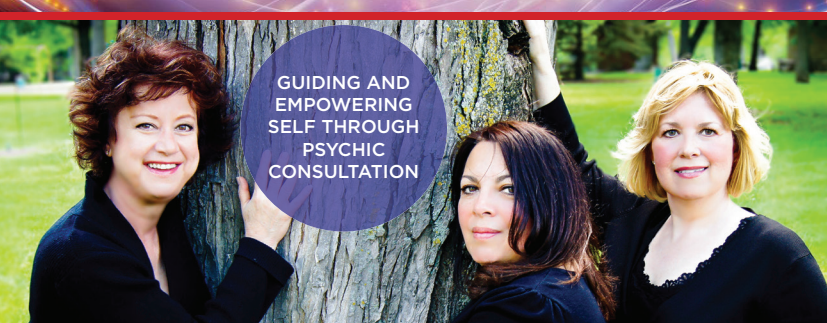
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1105 7th St. W., St. Paul
651-228-1276 | goldenchowmein.com

GREEN ENCHILADAS AT HOMI

Like bad pizza, enchiladas tend to get smothered in so much cheese, you can forget what you were eating in the first place and not even care. But the cheese isn't really the point. The point is of course the sauce, especially in the case of green enchiladas. This dish should showcase good chiles, plus corn tortillas, which are not just a vehicle but an entity unto themselves.

At Homi, minimal dairy pulls this dish together, making a meal that's lively and spicy, not heavy and laden. It should come with the title "How to Really and Truly Make Enchiladas."

864 University W., St. Paul
651-222-0655 | homirestaurant.com

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and cooked so that they pop when you bite. A little quick-cooked egg binds things, and lively straws of bean sprout and scallion ensure vigor as opposed to muck. This will have you re-thinking the entire notion pad Thai.

371 University Ave. W., St. Paul
651-225-8231 | thaicafemn.com

THE OMELET OF THE DAY AT ST. GENEVIEVE

We rarely order omelets in restaurants because the eggs often get treated like crap. For some reason, seven-egg omelets are a siren song to many, and once they hit the table, they're as big as a loaf of bread, burned on the outside, the innards still raw. They can't get cooked properly in the short minutes it takes to cook a beautiful, delicate egg. What a mess.

But we took a chance at St. Genevieve's brunch, as we imagined they could handle a delicate French omelet. Can they ever. Cream and curd come together to create a custardy texture, so gracefully cooked it seems barely kissed with heat. No brown edges here. Ours was inspired by a BLT, so lots of pretty tomatoes tumbled forth from the snug egg that seemed to be giving it all a little hug.

5003 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis
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BAKER'S FIELD BREAD

They've only just begun, but one could say that Baker's Field breads have been decades in the making. Baker Steve Horton is one of the great local masters of his trade, founding Rustica Bakery and now Baker's Field.

He and his colleagues had been pining for a better flour, and finding none, they had to build a better flour, by building a mill, buying the grain, milling it daily, then going forth to



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bake a better bread. And it is better—probably the best of the moment. This is bread the way it was meant to be: crackling fresh, intoxicatingly fragrant as beer or wine, nourishing as anything. These loaves make the rest look like impostors.

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612-545-5555 | bakersfieldflour.com

LU'S SPRING ROLLS

Because a spring roll is just five or so simple ingredients, it must be treated with care or not at all. Too often they tell the tale of hasty preparation: the shrimp overcooked, the herbs oxidizing, and worst of all, the wrappers gummy, chewy, old, or stale.

Not so at Lu's Sandwiches in Northeast. Theirs tell the tale of fresh assembly, with al dente shrimp, red-tinted pork, matchstick carrots and herbs as bright as if they'd just been picked. It all comes bound in wrappers so transparent they're like glass.

Two for \$4 is the fair market rate, and they've nailed that point, too.

10 6th St. NE, Minneapolis
612-249-5129 | lusandwiches.com

—MECCA BOS

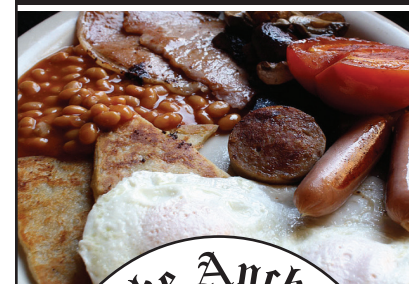
Is Basque wine and food the next big thing in Twin Cities dining?

It's tough keeping up with trends around here these days.

Ramen is trending. No, BBQ is trending. No, tacos are trending! Well, actually, they're all trending. And here's another trend to put on your watch list: Basque wine and food.

I might be going out on a bit of a limb by saying so, as this one just began peeking around corners this summer, but I really, truly love Basque wine and food, so I don't mind going out on a limb for it.

The Real Deal



The Anchor



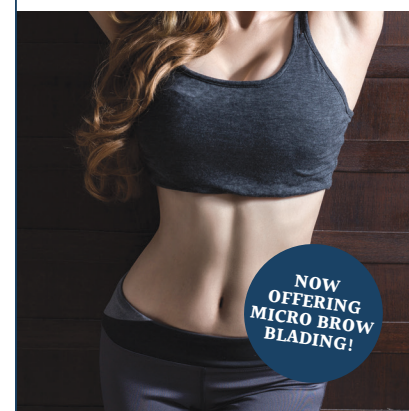
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It could be argued that the Basque region of Spain takes its food more seriously than any other. That northernmost region also tends to be one of the more unexplored areas of the country. This is not the home of bull-fighting and flamenco. It's the home of txakoli and pintxos.

Txakoli is a wine that's all but impossible not to like. It's a little bit effervescent with sparkle, dry as a bone, and fruity but not sweet. It's also reasonably priced at around \$20 retail a bottle, sometimes less.

Pintxos are the Basque answer to tapas, little two-or-three bite delights that you can stand around and eat while sipping Txakoli. Hola Arepa's owners Christina Nguyen and Birk Grudem returned from a tour of the area this summer and said they visited 15 to 20 establishments daily that specialized in this style of eating. If only we had half that many.

Typical pintxos ingredients include salt cod, the spanish tortilla omelet, squid ink, sheep's milk cheeses, asparagus, and jamon. We were delighted to find Costa Blanca doing a really stand-up, straight-up Spanish menu (Hector Ruiz's Rincón 38 also takes much of its influence from Spain) including some Txakoli wines.

Want some? Watch for influences from the area at Costa Blanca, Rincon 38, Gyst Fermentation Bar, Bar La Grassa, Piccolo, and we predict (and hope!) more restaurants coming our way sometime soon.

Find Txakoli on the wine lists at the Commodore, Corner Table, Costa Blanca, Eastside, La Fresca, Sea Change, Meritage, Revival, Saffron, Spoon & Stable, Tilia, Troubadour, Wise Acre, and Monello.

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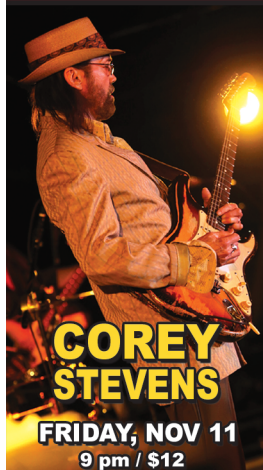
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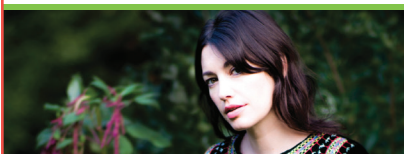
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Baker's Field: Stone milled local flour means way better bread

When the Twin Cities started seeing a spate of distilleries and cocktail rooms I couldn't figure out why I should care. I mean, vodka is vodka, right? I drink it for a delicious Greyhound, and to catch a buzz.

But then I realized, of course I should care about provenance. I care about the provenance of my cheese and my cucumbers and my chicken wings, so why not vodka?

The same holds true for bread. Most of us laypeople, we non-bakers, will look at a loaf of bread and think: "Bread." Or, we'll look at a loaf of fancy, artisanal bread, and think: "Fancy, artisanal bread."

Rarely will we think about the ingredients beyond flour, yeast, and water. But bakers are thinking about these things all the time, just as the best mixologists are thinking they'd like to have a better vodka.

And so it is with Baker's Field founder Steve Horton, also known as the founder of Rustica Bakery, the first true-blue and longest-standing artisan bakery we have around here. Why should someone who bakes with wild yeast, long fermentation times, and all the other painstaking methods necessary for the world's finest breads leave his raw materials to someone else?

But that's what most bakers have had to do up until fairly recently. Most American mills are built with big ag and commodity food in mind, not small farms and small bakeries and slow food where hand technique is key. So, if the likes of Horton want truly superior raw ingredients, they pretty much gotta build it themselves, from the ground up, including the tools.

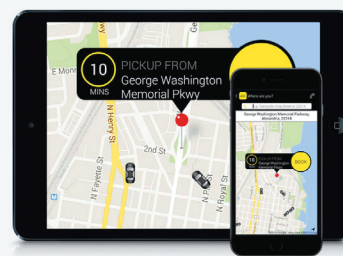
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And that's Baker's Field. Horton thinks there are probably fewer than 50 small mills like his in the entire country, most on the coasts where the bread scene has been a little more progressive. (Hello, Portland.)

Baker's Field looks a little like a mini-factory, outfitted with lots of hoses and pulleys and switches I can never hope to understand. What I understand is the flavor.

Take, say, a Rustica loaf, a beautiful thing indeed, bubbling and bur-nished as if it's been toasted on the surface of the sun. Bust into one of these, and you'll have to sweep the floor of all the lovely shards and crumbs it will leave behind. Inside, it's filled with glorious structure and more bubbles. As you bring it to your nose, the aroma is beery and winey and astonishingly complex. Why would anyone want anything else?

Because, says Horton, different baked goods call for different flours. Most flour tastes the same. It's white, the germ has been removed, and it works really well for certain things. But it doesn't work for everything. It's kind of like if those mixologists had nothing but vodka to work with. Sometimes you want a Manhattan, right?

Horton's breads prove this point fabulously. They're all totally different. Sweet, sour, rye-y, cereal-y, toasty, buttery. That's because Horton and team are working long and hard to figure out which grains and which flours work best where.

So for rye: bagel or baguette? Or for spring wheat: brioche or bun?

Thanks to that industrial white flour, most of our palates aren't accustomed to differentiating between, say, emmer and spring wheat, or buck-wheat and spelt. Don't worry. Horton and his team will do the heavy lifting,

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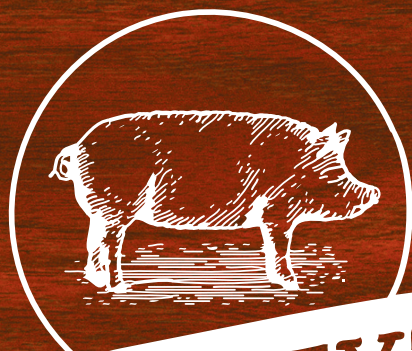
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And bakers, you want to get your hands on some of that beautiful flour? It's available retail as well, at Mill City Farmers Market, Northeast Farmers Market, Rustica, Grassroots Gourmet, and starting soon at Seward Co-op.

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**Minneapolis-St. Paul is
the fastest-growing city
for restaurant spending,
study says**

Love going out to eat? Join the club. And while you're at it, take out another line of credit. A study says Minneapolis-St. Paul is the fastest growing city for restaurant spending.

We gotta keep up with all of the new openings somehow, right?

Right, actually. The study, released this summer by real estate research analysts CBRE, specifically states that the spending correlates with local restaurant opening trends including food trucks, food halls, chef-driven independent restaurants, and "grocer-aunts." (There's a new term we're gonna love over-using from now on).

The researchers also posit that our local consumer spending habits might have to do with our relatively low cost of rent—more disposable income for noshing.

And slightly less competition for restaurant owners (compared to, say, New York City) propels yet more restaurateurs to open restaurants where we can spend our hard-earned cash.

Millennials dine out more frequently than their older counterparts, but Generation Xers and baby boomers contribute most to restaurant sales. Other big spenders after us include Denver, Baltimore, and Philadelphia.

This news comes on the heels that Americans spent more money in restaurants than in grocery stores for the first time in U.S. history this past year. Looks like we are responsible for a big piece of that pie, Twin Cities.

Now, get out and eat.

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Lu's Sandwiches goes fast-casual in Northeast

Fast-casual or “Chipotle-style” service is undoubtedly the new fast food of the modern era. It’s fresh, made-to-order before your very eyes, and preferably not more than \$10 for a simple lunch, oftentimes less.

Arguably, certain cuisines have been in the fast-casual game since long before it was a “thing,” and we’d count Vietnamese, especially banh mi and rice noodle salads, as one of these exceptions. Walk into almost any Vietnamese restaurant at all, and pretty, freshly made banh mi sandwiches will be piled high, for little more than a few bucks apiece, wrapped in utilitarian waxed paper (doubles as a plate) and bound by a rubber band. Good enough for me.

Or order a rice noodle salad, officially the most delicious way to get lunch on a 90-degree day, and you’ll wait no more than 10 minutes for something hot on top, cool on the bottom, and fresher than a field of dewy greens.

Lu’s Sandwiches has been doing things this way on Eat Street for many years, and their banh mi, notably the sour sausage, are some of the best anywhere. They bake their own bread on site.

But format du jour is format du jour, and if a place has a chance of expanding their audience, then they might as well do so. Enter Lu’s Northeast. This fast-casual version of the Eat Street stalwart builds banh mi plus noodle and rice bowls before your very eyes, and while it seems a little redundant, the queues are queuing up.

Step up and select your pleasure. Bowl or bread? Then, meat. At the new Lu’s, choose from about half a dozen options (but no sour sausage, sadly) including meatball, mock duck, and “special ham”—an assortment of traditional pork cold cuts.

Lu’s make their own pork pate in house, as well as an ultra-thick, dark yellow mayo that tells the tale of lots and lots of good yolk. On our visit, we had to wait about 15 minutes for the bread to arrive from the other location, well worth it for the fresh, shatter-crisp loaves. A Lu’s banh mi is also an exceptional deal at \$7 for something that’s almost a foot long. It takes gumption to finish it all. (Visit the original location to do the 2-foot-challenge.)

The odd part about all of this is that aside from the meat, most traditional banh mi garnishes are, well, traditional, and unless you have a strong aversion to cilantro or peanuts (legit), you’re probably going to want cuke, carrot, scallion, cilantro, peanuts, and chiles on your situation. Sauces come in portion cups anyway, so this setup isn’t as imperative or personal as, say, a burrito.

Which is not to say that Lu’s isn’t worth a look. Quite the opposite. Their spring rolls are alone worth the trek, one of the freshest, best, and prettiest presentations we’ve seen, with plump al-dente shrimp, pink-edged BBQ pork, and wrappers as transparent as cellophane. Another ridiculous deal at \$4 for a pair, but not as ridic as their taut, crisp egg rolls, available for \$1.50 each, or complimentary with a noodle bowl, your choice of pork or mock duck. That little flourish adds a lot of value, particularly since the noodle bowl is just \$7.

Vietnamese iced coffees might be the best in town in a town with a great many excellent versions—step over to the fountain machine after purchase and ice it up yourself. Lu’s even sells glasses of red and white wine for \$5 apiece! The room is styled after all fast-casual rooms everywhere—get in, get out, linger over your wine if you must, but don’t linger for long. Can’t you see the queue?

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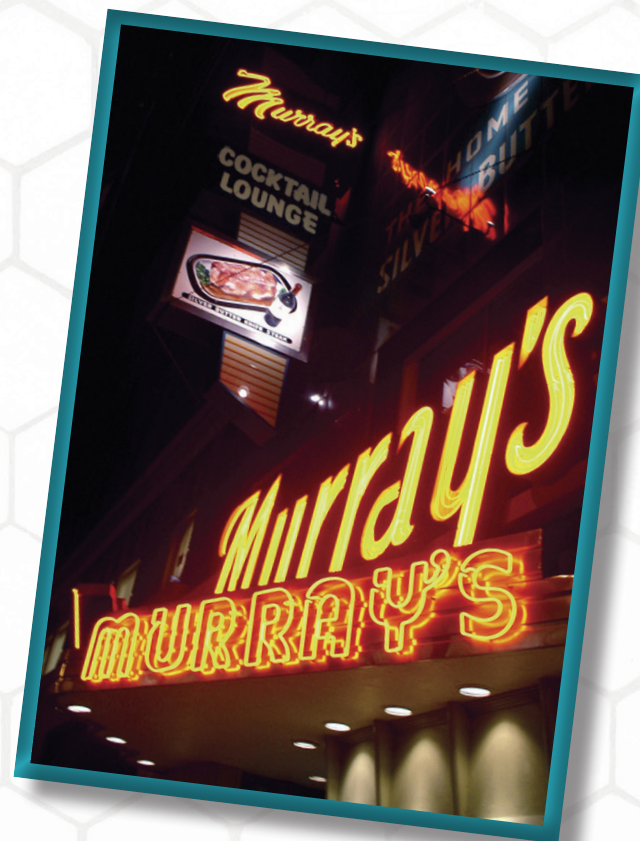


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